Dimension W

YUJI IWAHARA

HAI-YAH!

スタ
SUTA (STMP)

ボ
BO (BOOF)

ガ
GA (WHACK)

THE NAME'S...

WHO, ME?

I WOULD ASK YOUR NAME, COLLECTOR.

FOR ONE WHO DOES NOT RELY ON COILS, YOU POSSESS TREMENDOUS PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

FILE.08
GRENDEL

DESIGN
Dimension W
2
YUJI IWAHARA

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3-D MODEL DESIGN: TOSHIKAZU SENBA

DAN (LEAP)

ダン

BOO

TAN (TMP)

ダン

-OO (VROO)

ナナ

ボン

BON (WHOOMP)

BWAH!

THE AIRBAGS !?

AH!

I'M SORRY!

BYUUU (WOO)

ヒュ

GOGOGO (ROAR)

ゴゴゴゴ

SLITA (TAMP)

ブワ

BUWA (WHOOSH)

AH!

I THINK MY JUMPS HAVE LOST A LITTLE POWER...

IS IT BECAUSE I'M USING A DIFFERENT COIL NOW?

I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK FOR THAT LATER.

GOOOO

ゴゴゴゴ

.....

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE ENTIRE MUSEUM FROM UP THERE...

...WITHOUT LOSER'S FIREWORKS DISTURBING MY SCANNERS.

GOOOO

BATA (FLAP)

BATA

ALMOST THERE...

YOU CAN'T ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THIS DISTRICT WITHOUT A WARRANT!

HAVE YOU GOT A WARRANT? HUH?

JUST MOVE BACK!

MOVE BACK!

HEY! WE CAN'T SEE! THEY'RE JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!

POLICE! STAND BACK! THIS AREA IS DANGEROUS!

HAAA!

KYOUMA... MABUCHI, YOU SAY?

GA (CLASH)

GUWA (WHOOSH)

.....I'VE HEARD MORE THAN YOUR NAME.

HYU (WHIZ)

!?

WHAT, YOU'VE HEARD MY NAME?

THE...

...KYOUMA MABUCHI?

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

TALK. NOBODY TO INTERRUPT US NOW.

GASHAN CLATTER!

ガシャン

GA

ガ

KA

カ

KA

カ

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND.

...BUT THIS STRENGTH ...

I MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MERELY SHARE HIS NAME...

SO YOU WEREN'T BLUFFING.

YOU ARE LIVING PROOF OF IT.

THE LEGENDARY SPECIAL FORCES UNIT KNOWN AS "GRENDEL" ...

AS THE MODERN WORLD HURTLED TOWARD AUTOMATED WARFARE...

...THERE EXISTED A GROUP OF SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT USING MINDS AND MUSCLE TEMPERED TO THE POINT OF BEING ALMOST SUPER-HUMAN.

THE ANTI-COIL WEAPON SPECIALISTS ...

..."GRENDEL."

DO (BADUM)

IT IS SAID THAT GRENDEL WAS ANNIHILATED AT THE END OF THE WAR.

BUT I KNOW THE TRUE REASON BEHIND ITS DISAPPEAR-ANCE.

...!!!

I KNOW OF THE "FINAL MISSION" THAT LED TO THEIR ANNIHILATION .....

DO

OF THE MEN WHO STOOD ON THAT SITE...

...YOU ARE THE SOLE SURVIVOR.

(WHOOSH)

NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT.

.....THAT INFORMATION IS...!

...INDEED.

NEW TESLA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE COVERED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT UP.

!?

KAPA PROK

EVEN WHEN...

...THE USE OF ILLEGAL COILS IS TO BLAME.

Z"

SU (REACH)

I AM WELL AWARE.

EACH TIME COILS CAUSE A SERIOUS INCIDENT, THEY SWEEP IT UNDER THE RUG.....

SUCH IS NEW TESLA'S WAY.

I LOST MY FACE, MY HANDS, MY FEET...
DO (BADUM)
...AND...
...MY DEAR WIFE.

LEAVE THIS PLACE, COLLECTOR.

KACHI (CLICK)

CAN'T HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING EITHER ...

WE CAN'T SEE HIS FACE FROM THIS ANGLE... TCH...

OOO (CLAMOR)

POLICE

LOOK! LOSER TOOK OFF HIS MASK!!

I CAN'T SEE! OUTTA THE WAY, COP!

I WILL DRAG THE TRUTH OUT INTO THE LIGHT.

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THE THING THAT KILLED MY WIFE.

ZA (STOMP)

!?

POLICE!

FREEZE!

POLICE 6

POLICE 6

.....WHAT TRUTH?

POLICE

THEY JUST HAD TO DO THEIR JOB FOR ONCE.

TCH.

THE COPS ARE ALREADY HERE?

BO (POOF)

ボ!!

ボ!!

ボン

GAH ...!

WYU (WHOOSH)

ヒュ!!!

KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM!

NO FUNNY MOVES! TURN AROUND SLOWLY!

TCH...

KEHO (KOFF)

ケホ

KEHO

ケホ

TRICKY BAS-TARD...

POLICE!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TRUE— HIGHTAILING IT IS THE ONE THING HE'S GOOD AT.

BASHIN (SLAM)
バシーン
WHOA!
POLICE
警
POLICE
WHAT TH—
GARARA (CLACK)
ガラララ…
NO...
THIS LOSER'S DOING TOO?
DON (BAM)
ドン
DON
ドン
WHERE'D THIS WALL COME FROM!?
A SHUT-TER...
OPEN UP!
DON
ドン
THE COPS HAVE HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO CATCH HIM, AND HE'S ALWAYS SLIPPED RIGHT THROUGH THEIR FINGERS. HOW CAN I TRUST THEM?
SHUT UP!
... DIREC-TOR!
WHY ARE YOU BLOCKING THE POLICE?
HUFF!
CLOSE
CLOSE
OPEN
CLOSE
HUFF!
CLOSE
HUFF!
OPEN

WITH LOSER THIS FAR INSIDE THE MUSEUM, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE MY TRUMP CARD.

!

...WHAT DOES ART THEFT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

IF HIS ULTIMATE GOAL IS LOSER ... TO GET REVENGE ON THE *THING* THAT KILLED HIS WIFE...

...AFTER THE ANGELS?

WHY'S HE REALLY...

BA (HOO)

THE WORLD BELIEVES HE'S NEVER ONCE SUCCEEDED IN PULLING OFF A HEIST...

...BUT IS THAT TRUE?

NOW ...

...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SOME-THING.

THIS SHOULD BE HIGH ENOUGH.

KYUII (VRRR)

キュイイ

SUTA (WHIMP)

スタ…

KA (TIK)

KA

KA

007

KASHA (KSHIK)

KATA (CLICK)

KATA

KATA

That s the one. No doubt about it.

It's super small, but the signal is a match.

IS THAT IT?

DOGA CRUSH
A KEY COIL...
ONE OF THE "NUMBERS."
007
KA-CRUSH
Look out!
HIDDEN INSIDE A STATUE. AS I THOUGHT.

!!?

TA (TAP)
タ"

ZUTA (TAM)
ズタ

...!!

FURA (WOBBLE)
フラ"

BIK (CRACK)
ビキ"

GUWASHA (CRUNCH)
グワシャ

LYNCEUS

IDAS.

...

FU (FSST)
フ"

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

OMENT, ASE.

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA

HEY!

THE BROAD-CAST IS DOWN!

PIPI (BEEP)
ピピ"

DADDY, ARE YOU OKAY!?

DADDY !?

WHAT LIES AHEAD WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR THE PUBLIC'S EYES...

IT'S MY TURN!

.....

...I CAN'T VERY WELL HAVE YOU BROAD-CASTING ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT, NOW CAN I?

ILLEGAL COILS?

...SUCH POWER...

PUP

POTA (PLIP)

TSUU (OOZE)

!!!

AS THEY SAY, AN EYE FOR AN EYE...

...AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH, YES?

SU (SWISH)

PUUU (GLOW)

YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.

.....NO, I TAKE THAT BACK.

MY COMPANIONS ARE STRONGER THAN YOU.

KA ++ "
KA ++ "

ONE CANNOT STAND UP TO ILLEGAL COILS WITHOUT RELYING ON UNAUTHORIZED COILS ONESELF.

KA (TAP) ++ "
KA ++ "

IT IS MERELY COMMON SENSE.

THIS PUTS US ON EVEN FOOTING—

EVEN THE POWER OF OFFICIAL MILITARY COILS IS CURBED BY LIMITERS.

BECAUSE AT LEAST 40% OF YOUR BODY IS STILL FLESH AND BLOOD.

GIRO (GLARE) ギロ

EEP!

SASA (DUCK) ++...

...HUMOR ME WITH ONE QUESTION...

...DIRECTOR.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE "NUMBERS"?

LOOK AT THE CHEST COIL.

WHAT!?

IT SEEMS YOU ARE IGNORANT WHERE COILS ARE CONCERNED.

.....IT WAS A FOOLISH QUESTION, I SEE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NUMBERS ?

THIS IS NOT BECAUSE THE COIL IS ILLEGAL.

THE LIGHT HAS CHANGED TO A RED HUE.....

BOUU (GLOW)

GO

GO (DOOM)

HYU (WHOOSH)

THAT'S THE COLOR OF DEATH.

YEAH, YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT.

JARA (CLINK)

SUTA (WHLMP)

AM I CORRECT, COLLECTOR ?

...ARE A COLLECTOR'S TOP PRIORITY!!!

BA (LEAP)

!!

RED-COLORED COILS...

!!?

Yes, Master.

...OLD-TIMER!

STEP AWAY FROM THE ROBOT IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE...

SAVE ME...!

HEEK!

FILE.09
DIMENSIONAL COLLAPSE

SA (SWOOSH)

THIS'LL BE OVER IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

SYUSHU (ZING)

EEEK...!

We will protect you, Master.

HYU (WHOOSH)

DOSU

DOSU (THNK)

CHARA (CLINK)

BIIIN (STRETCH)

ON (WHOOM)

PA (SNAG)

BIIIIIIIN (STRETCH)

GIRIRI (STRAIN)

ZUTA (TAMP)

EAT THIS.

SHA (CHK)

PAAN (TWANG)

ZAKU (THK)

ZAKU

アニ

BARIRI

BARI (CRACK)

BACHICHI (BZZKT)

M...

DOSHA (WHUMP)

FU (SST)

VU (VMM)

VU

VL

BUTTER ME UP ALL YOU WANT, I'M STILL NOT LETTIN' YOU GO.

IMPRESSIVE, COLLECTOR.

TO THINK YOU WOULD USE THE ELASTIC FORCE OF RUBBER TO PIERCE THEIR COILS...

IT'S WHAT I DO.

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, OLD-TIMER.

MY COMPANIONS... HOW COULD THEY BE BEATEN ...

...SO EASILY .....?

I HAVE AN OBJECTIVE TO COMPLETE.

KA

KA

KA (TAK)

STICK AROUND AND WAIT YOUR TURN.

I'M TAKING CARE OF THESE COILS, AND THEN YOU'RE UP NEXT, LOSER.

I CANNOT STAY.

HEH.

WHAT'S THAT?

...

KA

KA- (TAK)

.....
"NUMBERS," RIGHT?

...THEN SO YOU SHALL, ONE DAY.

SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN DETERMINED TO KNOW...

TH-THEY'LL FIND OUT I USED ILLEGAL COILS...!

DIREC-TOR!

.....BETTER GET THOSE COILS BEFORE ANY MORE HEADACHES BARGE IN.

DON

DON (BAM)

DIREC-TOR!

DIREC-TOR!

TCH.

DON

DON

DON

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DIREC-TOR, OPEN UP!

!!?

GYORO (GLANCE)

IT'S STILL —

DON'T TOUCH IT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

I CAN'T!

I CAN'T FACE ANY FURTHER HUMILIATION...

I MUST HIDE THEM ...!

HEY!

SHIT —

...ter...

GAKU (TWITCH)

UU (VIBRATION)

GAKU

HEE!

UWA (JOLT)

M- M- M—

Mas...

DADDY!

DADDY!

DADDY, COME IN!

.....
OKAY, THINK, WHAT CAN I DO....?

THE JAMMING FROM THE FIRE-WORKS WILL ONLY LAST TEN MORE MINUTES TOO...

I HAVE TO GET OUR TRANSMITTERS BACK AND GET OUT OF HERE BY THEN...

(DI (BLIP) DI)

THE BROADCAST IS DOWN, AND I CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH DADDY EITHER.

THEY TOOK OUT IDAS AND LYNCEUS.

I MESSED UP.

(SHL (SWIPE)

...AND SEND THEM TO HELP DADDY.

I CAN REPROGRAM THEM...

MY *CAMOUFLAGED* TRANSMITTERS ...

LOST

HOW IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?

...WHEN DID I LOSE THE CONNECTIONS?

.....WAIT.

HUH!?

PA (FLICKER)
110...

!!?

I can explain that for you.

IT'S BECAUSE I...

...CAUGHT THEM ALL.

!?

KO (CLOP)

KO

I HAVE...

...YOUR PIGEON ANIMALOIDS.

H... HAIRPINS! YES. HAIRPINS. BIG ONES.

ERM... THESE ARE...

N-NO, I'M NOT!

HAIR-PINS?

Y—

YOU'RE AN AN-DROID!?

PATA

PATA (CLICK)

IPA IPA

A-AHEM. MOVING ON...

IT WAS LIKE A LIGHTBULB WENT OFF IN MY HEAD.

KUPA (PULL)

IP "

PIGEONS. THEY'RE SOMETHING YOU'D ALWAYS EXPECT TO SEE NEAR A CROWD OF PEOPLE.

IF YOU HAVE THEM MIX IN WITH A REAL FLOCK, NO ONE WOULD GIVE THEM A SECOND GLANCE.

I HAVE A LITTLE TRICK FOR CONTROLLING COILS.

H-HOW DID YOU FIND THEM?

AND...

AND HOW DID YOU CATCH THEM?

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T NOTICE THEM EITHER.

YOUR PIGEONS ARE SO SKILLFULLY MADE THAT NEITHER THEIR APPEARANCE NOR THEIR MOVEMENT CAN BE DISTINGUISHED FROM LIVING ONES.

BUT AS I WATCHED...

...I REALIZED THAT SOME OF THE PIGEONS KEPT FLYING AND FLYING, WITHOUT EVER RESTING THEIR WINGS.

...A PIGEON CONTINUOUSLY FLYING IN THE SAME AREA WITH NO PURPOSE CLEARLY GOES AGAINST NATURE.

BUT...

PIGEONS ARE SO EXCELLENT AT FLIGHT THAT PEOPLE EVEN RACE THEM.

AS LONG AS YOU SELECT A PARTICULAR PIGEON, YOU CAN TRACE BACK THE LOCAL SECURITY CAMERA LOGS TO THE EXACT POINT WHERE IT TOOK OFF— WHICH IS HOW I FOUND YOU HERE.

IT'S POSSIBLE.

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE CHAOS?

ARE YOU SAYING YOU NOT ONLY IDENTIFIED EACH INDIVIDUAL PIGEON BUT TRACKED THEIR FLIGHT PATHS TOO!?

GET LOST!

YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED, DIDN'T YOU?

T... TENTATIVELY, UMMM...

YES, REALLY.

...WH... WHAT ARE YOU...?

ARE YOU REALLY HUMAN?

EH?

...THERE'S SOME-THING I HAVE TO KNOW...

?

...BECAUSE OF MY FATHER'S LAST WORDS TO ME...

...BUT...

...YES, I DO HAVE YOUR ILLEGAL COILS, AND THOSE WERE MY GOAL.

AND YES, MR. KYOUMA DID SAY THAT THE JOB OF A COLLECTOR ENDS THERE.

...WHO MAKES THE ILLEGAL COILS AND WHERE?

.....DO YOU KNOW...

.....

REALLY.

...IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.

IF YOU DO, PLEASE TELL ME.

...!!

WHAT NOW ...?

WHAT ?

WH...

BIKU (JOLT)

ビク

"

AH!

...IS COLLAPSING.

THE DIMENSION ...

キュイーン

KYUIN (CYWEEAD)

.....IT'S COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE MUSEUM ...

HUH!?

BAKI (CRACK)

BAKI

KI

KI

KI

BAKI

BAKIKI

THE *DESYNCED* DIMENSION IS STARTING TO FLOOD OVER...!!

IT'S TOO LATE.

KI

HEEEK!

KI

KI

BAKI

BAKI

KI

MAY WE MEET AGAIN IF YOU SURVIVE.

YOU!

FAREWELL, COLLECTOR.

BA (WHOOSH)

IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN A DIMENSIONAL ***SLIP***, IT'S ALL OVER!

KI (CRACK)

COME ON, OLD-TIMER!

TIME FOR US TO SCRAM TOO.

KI

KI

M...MY LEGS WON'T...

DAMN LOSER.

'COURSE HE'D FLY THE COOP...

...ter...

Mas...

HURRY!

HEEK...

We will protect you...

H—

HEELP!

OLD-TIMER!

GASHI (GRAB)

!!?

N—

NOOOO!

HEY, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY!

TA (LEAP)

ZAWA

ZAWA (BZZ)

KH...

WAIIIT!

PAKIK KRINK

GASHAAA (CLATTER)

POLICE

WHOA!

WHAT'S HAPPENING...!?

PARIIIIN (SHATTER)

ZUN (SHOOM)

H-HUH!?

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

.....A COIL ACCI-DENT...

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA (CHATTER)

WAS IT LOSER?

THE GLASS CRACKED!

WHAT WAS THAT?

BA (FWIP)

DADDY!

NO WAY...

TA (TMP)

TA

TA

WHAT!?

ZA (FWOO)

...!

.....UM! EXCUSE ME!

LET US DEPART.

I HAVE WHAT WE REQUIRED.

OKAY!

DADDY!

MR. KYOUMA— THE MAN WHO WAS CHASING YOU, IS HE ALL RIGHT?

WHERE DO ILLEGAL COILS— FIRST ... ...NO, WAIT.

GEHO (KOFF)

GEHO

REST YOUR FEARS. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN OF HIS CALIBER.

(HO) (PHEW)

LOOK, YOU...

I SEE HE IS BLESSED WITH A TALENTED PARTNER...

WISH I DIDN'T HAFTA SEE IT SO OFTEN.
"MATERIAL-IZATION OF DIMENSION W."
FINALLY STOPPED, DID IT?
.....

NOTHIN' MUCH.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY BODY?

MY BODY..

!..

...MELDING INTO ONE PIECE IS ALL.

PAKIK (CRINK)

IT'S JUST...

...

DON (BAM)

BATAAN (WHAM)

LOOKS LIKE THE ANGELS YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT.

IRONIC, THAT.

ALWAYS QUICK TO RESPOND TO AN ACCIDENT.

Q.I.'S ALREADY HERE?

This area is now under our authority!

This is the Dimension Admin-istrative Bureau!

Freeze!

ZAZA (SHUFFLE)

WHAT A PITY.

HERE I THOUGHT I'D GET TO MEET THE INFAMOUS LOSER.

IT'S YOU, THEN?

KA (TAP)

KA

KA

MY, MY.

THEN WE'D BEST HURRY.

... DADDY!

LOOKS LIKE D.A.B. SHOWED...

ALBERT SCHU-MANN.

WAIT ...

YOU NEVER ANSWERED MY SECOND QUESTION.

AH!

KAN (CLANG) カン

KAN カン

GIVE KYOUMA MY REGARDS...

...MY TALENTED YOUNG LADY.

THEY SAY THAT NO ONE WHO LEARNS OF IT LIVES TO TELL THE TALE.

...IS TABOO, EVEN IN THE UNDERBELLY OF SOCIETY.

TO KNOW THE LOCATION WHERE ILLEGAL COILS ARE MANUFACTURED

ABOUT THE ILLEGAL COILS...?

...AND EXACT MY REVENGE.

BUT I WILL FIND THEM...

FILE.10
HOME

WELL, COLOR ME IMPRESSED!

NYEH HEH.

MM-HM!

I FOUND AND RETRIEVED EACH ONE.

YOU CAUGHT ALL OF THESE YOURSELF...

...MIRA?

LOSER'S GOT HIMSELF A GOOD ENGINEER.

THESE ARE REAL WELL-MADE.

I'M GLAD I FOUND MY HAT TOO, AFTER IT BLEW OFF.

TCH.

...MAKES THIS A BIG VICTORY FOR YOU.

THAT YOU GOT THE JUMP ON THEM... THE NUMBER OF COLLECTORS WHO WERE AFTER LOSER'S ILLEGAL COILS WAS PRETTY SIGNIFICANT.

OH YEAH?

IT WAS A YOUNG PERSON ABOUT YOUR AGE CONTROLLING THEM, ACTUALLY.

SHAD-DAP!

IN FACT, ONE OF THE PEOPLE YOU OUTCLASSED IS STANDING RIGHT HERE.

I HAD TO PRIORITIZE THAT.

I HAD LOSER CORNERED, BUT THIS OTHER IDIOT BUTTED IN AND TRIGGERED AN ACCIDENT.

COIL ACCIDENTS ARE KEPT CLASSIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT'S PART OF THE "DIMENSIONAL POWER SUPPLY ACT."

WE WON'T GET ANY ANSWERS OUT OF HIM.

WHO WAS THIS OTHER PERSON?

I CAN'T SAY NOTHIN'.

...WILL BE ONE OF THE SUCKERS WHO HASN'T MADE IT HOME.

IF IT WASN'T LOSER, THEN WHOEVER TRIGGERED THE ACCIDENT...

BUWA

NYEH HEH.

PACHI (SNAP)

PIPI- (BLIP)

KOOROGI.

...HOWEVER...

BUWA (FLICKER)

THE D.A.B. HAS IT COMPLETELY SEALED OFF WHILE THEY HANDLE THE ACCIDENT.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION AT THE MUSEUM NOW?

THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR.

CLEMENT VIKAS.

Clement Vikas

2018~

VOILÀ. GOT HIM.

... NARROW THAT LIST DOWN TO ANYBODY WHOSE FAMILY WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY, AAAND...

I'M SURPRISED THEY LET YOU GO SO QUICKLY.

YEAH, WELL, I'M NO STRANGER TO DIMENSIONAL ACCIDENTS.

PLUS I'VE GOT CONNECTIONS.

JUDGING FROM THE SCOPE OF THE CLEANUP CREW THEY SENT IN, IT'S A CLASS C ACCIDENT.

I'D SAY IT'LL TAKE 'EM FIVE-ISH DAYS TO ASSESS THE DIMENSIONAL DAMAGE...

...AND ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS TO FIX IT.

I HATE TO OWE HIM ANYTHING...

...BUT I'M NOT GONNA LET MYSELF BE LOCKED UP FOR DAYS...

...ON THE PRETENSE THAT I NEED TO BE EXAMINED AND QUARANTINED AND ALL THAT CRAP.

ALBERT SCHUMANN.

OH, RIGHT. I HEARD THAT HE BECAME OUR Q.I. CHIEF INVESTIGATOR.

IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING FRIENDS IN THE RIGHT PLACES, HMM?

HE AIN'T NO FRIEND OF MINE.

WE BOTH JUST HAPPENED TO ESCAPE THE SAME HELLHOLE.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS BETWEEN US.

...?

LOOK, I DON'T LIKE THE GUY.

HAVING EACH OTHER'S BACKS IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM BEING "BUDDIES."

DON'T YOU CALL THAT A "WAR BUDDY"?

くるっ KURU (WHIRL)

スタ スタ

BRING US *THAT*.

UGH, YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN.

FOUR!

... WELL, HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

SFX: SUTA (STEP) SUTA

GAPA (CLICK)

NORMALLY, I WOULD HAVE THIS DEPOSITED TO A PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR YOU.

NYEH HEH.

COLD, HARD CASH, IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN ONE WITHOUT A BIOMETRIC I.D.

SU (SWISH)

THIS IS YOUR PAY FOR THE PIGEONS.

IN JAPANESE YEN.

BASA (STACK)

IT'S SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND IN TOTAL.

THAT'S ONE LESS TRICK HE'LL BE ABLE TO FALL BACK ON.

THEY WERE PLEASED THAT WE FOUND OUT HOW LOSER WAS HIDING HIS TRANSMITTERS.

THAT'S A LOT MORE THAN THE GOING PRICE!

SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND !!?

...YOU'RE A FULL-FLEDGED COLLECTOR NOW.

CONGRATULATIONS, MIRA.

HUMAN OR NOT...

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I'M NOT GONNA SPEND IT!

DON'T LET THAT MAN SPEND YOUR MONEY, YOU HEAR?

OOOO (VROOM)

...YOU SURE YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT HALF OF IT WITH MARY?

AIN'T ANY OF MY BUSI-NESS, BUT...

I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH SO MUCH MONEY.

HOKU HOKU CHADDY

HOKU

HOKU

RENT?

IT'S MY RENT MONEY.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO USE IT FOR?

THREE HUNDRED THOU IS STILL A BIG HAUL...

GREAT. NOW THE ROBOT SIMULATES GUILT TOO.

I WON'T HAVE TO FEEL GUILTY THAT WAY.

...

OF COURSE. IF I'M GOING TO USE A ROOM IN YOUR HOME, MR. KYOUMA, I SHOULD BE PAYING RENT.

.....OR WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU'LL GET INTO IF I DON'T LOOK AFTER YOU?

BESIDES, I'D FEEL SAFER WITH YOU.

HEY!

...GOD-DAMN IT.

WITH THAT MUCH MONEY, CAN'T YOU RENT A ROOM SOMEPLACE ELSE?

MS. MARY SAID NOT TO.

...I WAITED BY THE CAR FOR HOURS AND HOURS.

AFTER THE ACCIDENT...

YOU HONESTLY HAD ME WORRIED THERE, YOU KNOW!

AND YOU STILL DIDN'T COME BACK.

ANYWAY, BEFORE YOU GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF...

COME ON, WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO INSISTENT ON CALLING ME A ROBOT!?

YEP, YOU'RE A ROBOT TO THE CORE.

...WAITIN' ON STANDBY IS PAR FOR THE COURSE FOR ROBOTS.

THE ONLY ROOMS AT MY PLACE ARE THE GARAGE, A WAITING ROOM THAT I TURNED INTO MY ROOM...

...THE WASHROOM, AND THE BATHROOM.

I DON'T GOT...

...ANY ROOMS FOR RENT.

EH!?

OHH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO!?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?

I WANT MY OWN BED, YOU KNOW!

AND A CLOSET, AND A PLACE TO CHANGE CLOTHES!

NO WAY!

YOU'RE A ROBOT. YOU CAN JUST STAY ON YOUR FEET 24-7, CAN'T YOU?

I CAN SPARE A CORNER OF THE GARAGE...

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU NEED A BED FOR?

I NEED A BED...

...FOR BEAUTY REST, TO KEEP MY BODY IN TIP-TOP SHAPE!

BEAUTY REST?

YES!

THE NANOMACHINES INSIDE ME FLOW THROUGHOUT MY BODY, LIKE BLOOD.

THEY'RE CONSTANTLY MAINTAINING EVERY PART OF MY BODY TO KEEP ME IN IDEAL CONDITION.

THE NANOMACHINES THEMSELVES ARE ALWAYS DIS-ASSEMBLING AND REASSEMBLING...

I NEED A RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF SLEEP DEPENDING ON HOW MUCH I MOVE AROUND.

...BUT THEY CAN ONLY MEND ME SO QUICKLY.

I SLEEP. I. SLEEP!

ERGO, I NEED A BED!

SO I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP SITTING OR STANDING.

I'M OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

.....SO THIS "SLEEP" OF YOURS...

HOW ASLEEP DO YOU GET?

IT'S LIKE THAT...

OH RIGHT. I REMEM-BER.

ERM .....

.....IS IT LIKE WHEN YOU WERE SNATCHED UP BY THAT GIANT PUNK IN SHADOW TOWN?

EH!?

THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER SPECIAL REASON.

Y...YES, THAT'S ALL IT WAS.

SO THAT'S WHY...

I'D BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU WENT ALL LIMP EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A ROBOT.

PLEASE DON'T PUT ME OUT. I CAN PAY YOU...

WHY WOULD ANYBODY MAKE SUCH AN INCON-VENIENT ROBOT...?

YOU'RE KILLING ME HERE ...

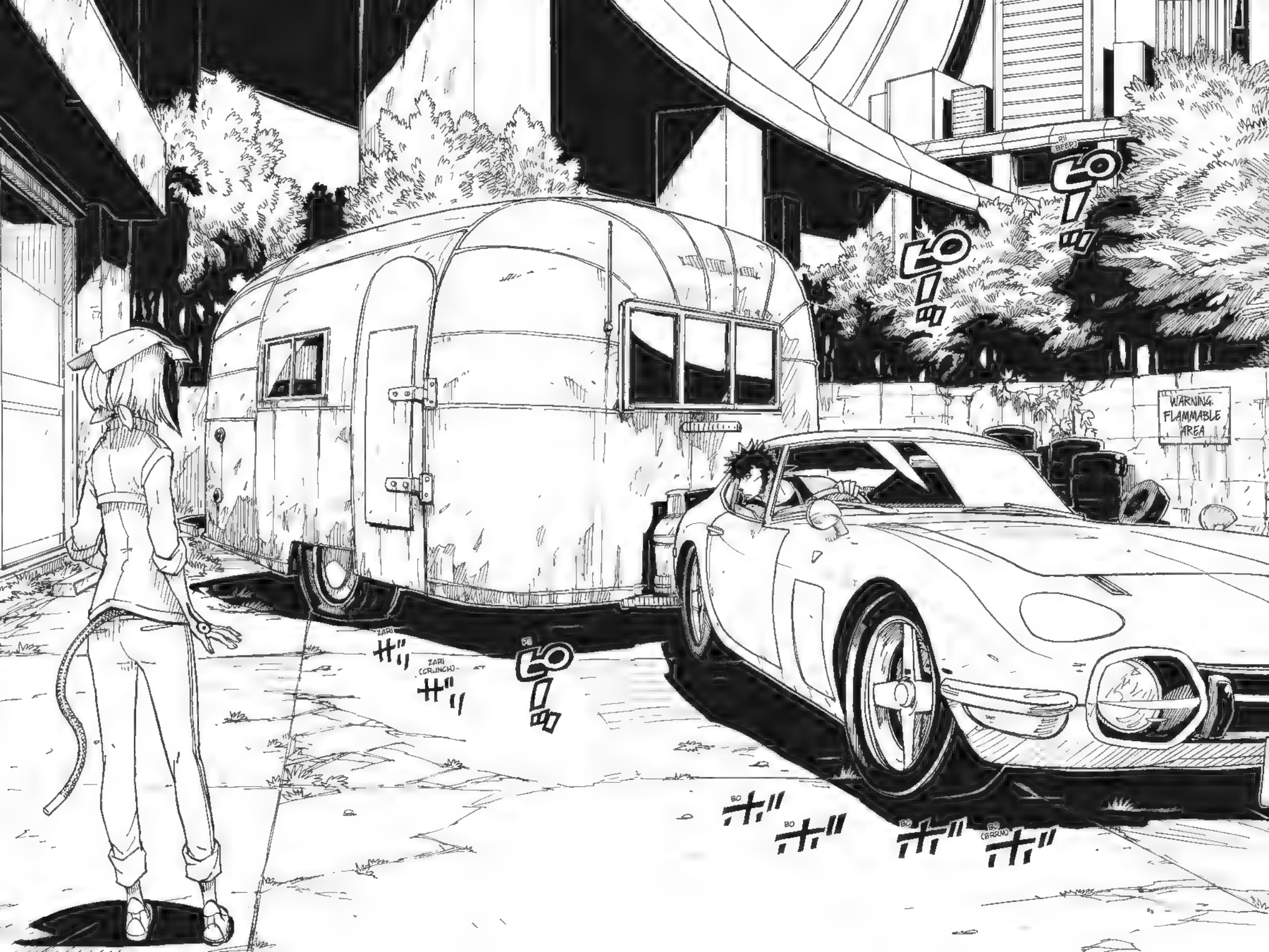
...NOW HOLD ON A MINUTE.

?

I MIGHT HAVE A SOLUTION...

NOT TO MENTION, AS A RULE, I DON'T KEEP ANYTHING COIL-POWERED IN THE HOUSE...

I STILL DON'T HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU.


PI BEEP
ピー
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WARNING.
FLAMMABLE
AREA
ZARI
ZARI
(CRUNCH)
PI
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BO
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BO
ボー
BO
(BARK)
ボー

ARE YOU SURE I CAN USE IT?

HERE. YOUR KEYS AND YOUR CHANGE.

IT SUDDENLY HIT ME THAT A GUY I KNOW HAD ONE OF THESE AT HIS STORE.

A TRAILER!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PEKO (BOW)

I'LL JUST TAKE A CUT FOR THE PARKING SPACE.

PI (FWIP)

I BOUGHT IT WITH YOUR MONEY. IT BELONGS TO YOU.

UH... HUH?

OHH, I WONDER WHAT'S IT LIKE INSIDE?

YOU'VE GOT MONEY TO SPARE TOO, DON'CHA?

YOU CAN GATHER UP SOME SCRAP METAL AND MAKE YOURSELF A BED OR A SOFA OR SOMETHING.

UM...

TAKE CARE OF THE INSIDE YOURSELF.

I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER AND HIT THE HAY. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

BUT I AT LEAST NEED PLUMBING AND A TOI...

GASA (RUSTLE)

GASA

BATAN (SLAM)

バタン

BUT...

KYA-HA-HA!

SCRAPYARD MAN'S LIVIN' WITH A GIIIRL!

YEAH! YEAH!

DIDJA SEE THAT?

KUSU

KUSU (GIGGLE)

NOW THIS IS GONNA BE FUN.

GACHA (KACHK)

W.C.

ATA FUTA (PANIC)

あたふた

BATAN (SLAM)

MY BODY USES TAP WATER FOR COOLING AND FOR NANOMACHINE CIRCULATION, AND IT NEEDS TO BE PERIODICALLY REPLACED —

I-I CAN EX-PLAIN!

WHAT THE HELL IS A ROBOT DOING ON MY TOILET!?

AH.

FILE.11
SCORE

USED OUTLE

中古リサイクル

SIGN: USED/RECYCLED

BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD TO GIVE ANYBODY COINS.

EVEN AT USED OUTLETS LIKE MINE, MOST CUSTOMERS PAY ELECTRONICALLY THESE DAYS.

THANK OH! YOU.

...HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.

CHARA (CLINK) チャラ

I PUT EVERYTHING OUT BACK HERE LIKE YOU ASKED, BUT, UH...

...I'M SURE. THIS WILL DO JUST FINE.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE IT DELIVERED?

.....

THAT SO?

YES.

UM..... ACTUALLY, I HAVE A FRIEND COMING TO PICK IT UP.

WHAT!?

HUH!?

OH MY GOSH! LOOK!

HUH?

A FIRE?

A THIEF?

WHAT IS IT?

HEY, MISS—

I HOPE HE DIDN'T THINK I WAS A WEIRD GIRL.....

I CAN'T ORDER ANYTHING ONLINE EITHER ...

HONESTLY, HAVING TO PAY FOR THINGS WITH PHYSICAL MONEY IS SO INCONVENIENT.

WHEW.

THERE.

DOSA (WHUMP)

A SOFA THAT CAN DOUBLE AS A BED. A CUSHION. A DRESSER FOR MY CLOTHES.

A VANITY WITH A MIRROR.

AND...

...A COIL-POWERED TABLE LAMP AND A CUTE STUFFED ANIMAL.

QUIT IT!

LEGGO!

IF I WANT MY ROOM TO LOOK GIRLIER, I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE WALL-PAPER AND CARPET TOO.

I'D LIKE TO COLLECT MORE DOLLS AS I GO ON TOO.

WHAT ELSE...

NOT AGAIN!

DAMN BRATS.

LEGGOO!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO STAY OFFA MY PROPERTY!?

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!? THE GATE WASN'T LOCKED!

UNGH...

WHY CAN'T WE COME IN?

UM, MR. KYOUMA...?

SHADDAP.

STINGY!

YOU JUST CAN'T!

THIS AIN'T NO PLAY-GROUND!

THE THINGS HERE AIN'T SCRAP.

TWO.

ONE. I AM NOT A TRASH MAN.

SAME DIFFER-ENCE!

SCRAPPY!

WHO ARE THOSE KIDS?

DON'T CALL US SNOT-NOSED, SCRAPPY!

THEY'RE JUST SOME SNOT-NOSED BRATS.

1P "" PA (DROP) PA 110 ""

THEN PROVE IT!

'COURSE THEY DO.

WAH!

DO THEY EVEN RUN!?

YOU ONLY SEE OLD PRE-COIL CARS IN MUSEUMS THESE DAYS!

KUUUH? BUT WHYYY?

FERGET IT!

HUHH?

SCRAM!

WAKU (GIDDY)

WAKU

KIRA

KIRA (TWINKLE)

JUST DON'T WET YOUR PANTS, TWERPS —

HAWA-WA...

BOKA (KICK)

SUKA

BUCHI SNAP

...

YAH! TAKE THIS!

SHOW US! SHOW US!

POKA

POKA PLOK

GESHI (WHACK)

SHOW US!

MR. KYOUMA, PLEASE! THEY'RE ONLY CHILDREN!

KOSO

KOSO (SNEAK)

WAAH!

CUT THAT OUT, YOU SNOT-NOSED BRATS!

SHOULD WE REALLY BE DOING THIS...?

THEY AIN'T SEEN US.

TH' PLAN'S GOIN' PERFECT.

KOSO

PFFF.

KOSO

WE'RE IN THE CLEAR.

SASA (SWSH)

HH...!

?

This is scary. Can't we leave?

No, y'dummy!

PIPI

PIPI (BEEP)

Another second an' Ah reckon she woulda caught us!

BOTTLE: SUPER-GLOW SPRAY PAINT

WHAT ARE WE WRITING?

WHATCHA FIGURE?

WE'RE GONNA TAKE THIS SUPAH-GLOW SPRAY PAINT AN' WRITE AS MUCH AS WE CAN!

KARA (SHAKE)

KARA

SWEAR WORDS LIKE "POOP" OR...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Now's our chance!

KARA (FWIP)

SHOULD I PRETEND I DON'T KNOW THEY'RE THERE?

NNGH-

GO CHONKO

GA CHHACKO

YONCH!

KYA!

DOKA CHOWD

DOKA CHHAWD

HAU!

HAM!

JIN!

SHIORA!

SHOUTA!

YEP!

AH EVEN BOUGHT A SPRAY PAINT THAT WASHES OFF JES' LIKE THAT!

WE HAVEN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET!

YOW!

DON'T TALK BACK TO ME!

GO CHONKO

WHY'RE YOU ONLY HITT NG ME!?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIT THEM!

TCH. YOU NEVER LEARN.

YOU WANNA GET A BEATING THAT BADLY?

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TEACH US WHAT'S SAFE AND WHAT'S NOT?

'COS IT'S A PAIN.

THESE AREN'T THINGS THAT LITTLE KIDS SHOULD GO AROUND TOUCHING WILLY-NILLY!

...AND EQUIPMENT THAT COULD KILL EVEN GROWN-UPS IF THEY HANDLE 'EM WRONG!

THERE ARE RUSTY OLD CARS...

I'M TELLING YOU KIDS, IT'S DANGEROUS BACK HERE!

MR. KYOUMA? REALLY ?

HE FIXED SOMETHING FOR YOU?

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KIDS TRIED TO TOSS IT AWAY IN MY DAMN YARD!

JERK!

YOU WERE NICE AT FIRST, WHEN YOU FIXED MY KICK SCOOTER!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

ANYHOW!

SURE DID!

GIVE US A BREAK. IT LOOKED LIKE A JUNKYARD.

RIGHT?

HOW'D IT GET THIS LATE!?

WHOA!

SHOOT!

WE'D BETTER GO, JIN!

AREN'T YOU GONNA BE LATE?

I AIN'T GONNA BABYSIT ANY KIDS.

GET OUT.

HMPH.

... SCRAPPY!

THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU WIN...

HURRY!

HEY, MISSY!

WHAT IS IT?

?

TA (TMP) TA TA

THERE WAS SOMETHIN' AH GOTTA ASK!

KIKI (SQUEAK)

OH YEAH!

HAVE Y'ALREADY DONE IT WITH MABUCHI?

DA (STOMP) DA DA DA

DONE IT?

WE DID?

WE LEARNED THAT IN HEALTH CLASS!

HEY, WHAT DID YOU MEAN, "DONE IT," ANYWAY?

WAAAH!

MABUCHI BLEW HIS TOP!

YOU TWERPS ARE DEAD MEAT!

SCRAPPY'S ON THE RAMPAGE!

WOO-HOO!

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS OKAY TO SEND THE KIDS OFF ALONE?

THEY'LL BE FINE.

NORMALLY, THEIR "PERMISSIONS" WON'T ALLOW 'EM TO WANDER INTO DANGEROUS PLACES LIKE THIS.

—TCH. IT NEVER ENDS WITH THOSE NEIGHBOR-HOOD BRATS...

FATHER TOLD ME TO STAY OFF OF THE OPEN NETWORKS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SO...

YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN IGNORANT FOR A ROBOT.

"PERMIS-SIONS"?

THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE CLOSELY MONITORED, BOTH THE WHEN AND WHERE...

...VIA THE I.D. CHIPS EMBEDDED IN THEIR WRISTS...

...AND THE BRACELETS THAT MONITOR THE CHIPS.

HEY, WAIT!

THEY DON'T SEEM IT, BUT THEY ACTUALLY GO TO A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL.

DON'T CALL ME A ROBOT!

WHY ARE THEY ABLE TO PLAY HERE, THEN?

SO NORMALLY, THEY CAN'T PLAY IN PLACES LIKE THIS.

IT'S SET UP SO THAT IF THEY DO ANYTHING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THEIR "PERMISSIONS," THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS, LOCAL POLICE, AND WHOEVER ELSE WILL BE NOTIFIED.

THOSE TWERPS CHANCED ON IT, SO THEY STARTED SNEAKING IN HERE FROM A PARK TWO BLOCKS AWAY, WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS' KNOWLEDGE.

IT'S AN ADMINIS-TRATION OVER-SIGHT.

MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF THAT. SEEMS LIKE THE SYSTEM TREATS IT THE SAME AS A ROUTE TO SCHOOL.

THIS PROPERTY IS RIGHT BENEATH THE EXPRESS-WAY.

THEY'D GET POINTS DOCKED ON THEIR RECORDS.

THEY'D LOOK AT THE KIDS' LOGS AND FIND OUT THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING HERE.

YOU GO AHEAD. SEE WHAT HAPPENS THEN.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU?

IF YOU REPORTED THE OVER-SIGHT, THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TRES-PASS HERE ANYMORE, RIGHT?

...SETS PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT THE REST OF THEIR LIFE IN STONE.

THE SCORE THEY HAVE WHEN THEY REACH ADULTHOOD...

...THE SO-CALLED SCORES... IT'S EVERY-THING.

FOR KIDS THESE DAYS, THEIR PERMANENT RECORDS...

DON'T TELL NOBODY ABOUT IT.

(CREAK)

THE LOCK'S STILL BROKEN.

LET'S GO!

NOBODY'S LOOKIN'?

AH WAS A GOOD GIRL.

UH-HUH!

DID YA BEHAVE, SHIORA?

SEE Y'ALL LATER!

SEE YA!

READY TO GO HOME?

SHIORA!

THERE'S MAH PAPA!

AH!

SO LEAVE IT BE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

GACHA (KACHAK)

ガチャ

BUT TAKING PART IN AN ASININE SYSTEM THAT CONTROLS THEIR FUTURES? I'D HATE THAT EVEN MORE.

I HATE KIDS.

BO

ボ

ボ

.....

GEEZ.

BO

BO

HOLD DOWN THE FORT, ROBOT.

I SAID DON'T CALL ME THAT!

ALONE.

BORURUN (BRRM)

ボルルン

THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO LOOK INTO.

BO

BO (PUTTER)

BYE, JIN!

SHOUTA!

LATER, HAM!

BYE-BYE!

I JUST CAN'T TELL WITH HIM.

...IS HE A GOOD PERSON, OR A BAD PERSON?

...SUZU-KIYAMA?

WHY, I'VE BEEN HERE THE ENTIRE TIME, YOUNG MASTER.

.....

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE...

LIS-TEN.

DON'T YOU TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS.

VERY WELL, YOUNG MASTER.

THE ENTIRE TIME.

GADA (POP)

LET US RETURN, THEN...

...YOUNG MASTER.

DO (RUMBLE)

DO

REFURBISHED COILS
01 MODEL, 6 MONTHS
¥900-

REFURBISHED COILS
03 MODEL, 18 MONTHS
¥4200

BASEMENT 1F

GACHA (KACHAK)

KII (CREAK)
キイイ

LEAVE.

NEVER MIND. COLLECTORS AIN'T WELCOME HERE.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, GRAMPS.

KARAN (DING)

KARAN

WELCOME.

BATAN (SLAM)
バタン

...I DOUBT THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU DRAGGED YOURSELF IN HERE.

BUT...

EVER THE COIL-HATER, EH...?

PRETTY INCONVENIENT WITHOUT ONE.

I'M HERE LOOKING TO BUY A CELL PHONE MODIFIED TO RUN ON BATTERIES.

THE COIL-POWERED PHONE I USED—BEGRUDGINGLY—BURNED OUT WHEN THAT PILLAR OF LIGHT SHOWED UP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

SHARP AS A TACK.

...

"NUMBERS."

TELL ME ABOUT THE COILS THEY CALL...

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

大天空小学校

SIGN: BIG SKY ELEMENTARY

SWITCH-ING SCHOOLS!?

TAKEI FROM CLASS C IS SWITCHING SCHOOLS!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, HAM?

JIN!

AH!

WHY?

I GUESS HIS GRADES WERE ALREADY PRETTY LOW...

THAT'S ALL!?

'COS OF THAT FIGHT.

...THEY SAID HIS SCORE DIPPED BELOW OUR SCHOOL'S REQUIREMENT.

NOBODY COULD DO ANYTHING.

DANG IT.

IF THE TEACHERS DIDN'T REPORT IT, THEIR OWN SCORES WOULD GO DOWN...

NUH-UH, NOT WHEN HE BROKE THAT WINDOW!

COULDN'T THE TEACHERS GIVE HIM A BREAK!?

YEAH...

...I HOPE HE MAKES A LOT OF FRIENDS AT HIS NEW SCHOOL.

NOT RIGHT AFTER TAKE! GOT IN TROUBLE...

I THINK WE'D BETTER NOT, JIN.

COME ON, IT'LL BE FINE!

EHHH!?

YEAAAH!

WE'RE GOIN' OFF TA PRANK SCRAPPY AGAIN!!

ALL RIGHT!

YES, YOUNG MASTER.

RIGHT ?

...IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS, WE'VE GOT THIS GUY.

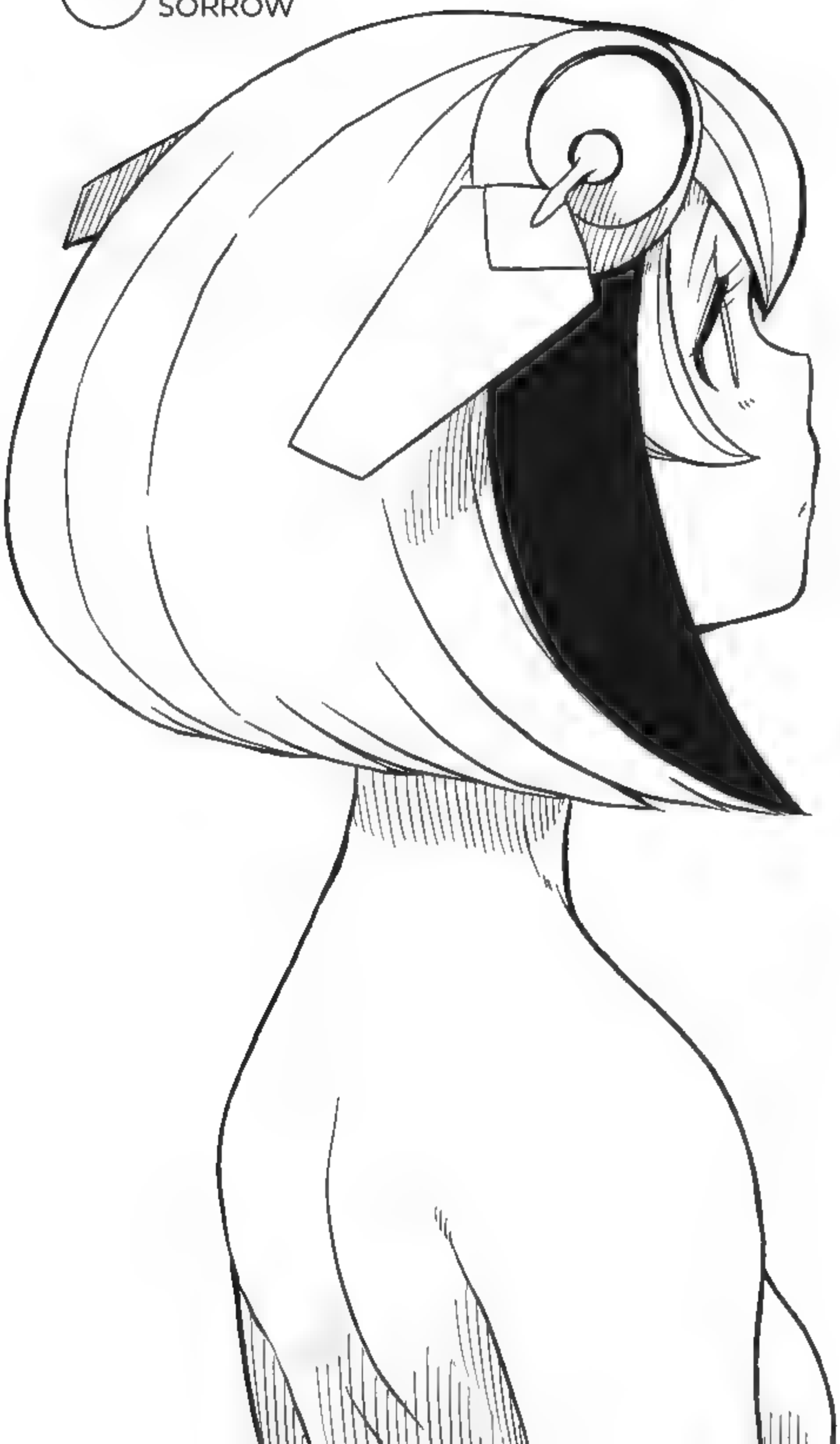
OUR MONITOR BRACELETS DON'T GO OFF OVER THERE. WE ALREADY MADE SURE, REMEMBER?

PLUS...

...TO KEEP YOUR SECRET SAFE.

YOUR LOYAL SUZUKIYAMA WILL MAKE IT HIS RESPONSIBILITY ...

FILE.12
SORROW



WHY DON'T WE DO GOOD DEEDS FOR ONCE?

WE COULD PICK UP LITTER.

NO WAY!

AH'M BORED OF PULLIN' PRANKS.

FUII!

GARA (ROLL)

GARA

GARA

ガラ

ガラ

ガラ

FUIII (ZIP)

WHAT'RE WE GONNA PLAY TODAY?

AH! IT'S THAT OLDAH GIRL!

I HAVE ENOUGH OF BEIN' A GOODY TWO-SHOES AT SCHOOL.

AWW...

AH NEVER ASKED HER FOR HER NAME!

AH'M GONNA GO PLAY WITH HER.

HI, KIDS!

THE OLD TCH. FOX IS AWAY?

TOO BAD.

THAT'S TOO BAD.

HE STEPPED OUT ALONE AGAIN.

THAT'S RIGHT.

MISTAH MABUCHI AIN'T HOME T'DAY?

Full

HE'S BEEN MAD AT US FOR REAL BEFORE, HASN'T HE?

YEAH, BUT...

IF WE PUSH IT TOO MUCH, WON'T HE GET MAD FOR REAL?

DO NOT! IDIOT!

YOU WANT HIS ATTENTION, DON'T YOU, JIN?

AHA HA HA!

HUH?

LOOKIT THAT!

HEY, HEY!

SCAAA-RYYY!

BURU (SHIVER)

BURU

SCRAPPY NOT SAYIN' A WORD? NOW THAT'D FREAK ME OUT!

I THINK HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO GETS ALL SILENT WHEN HE'S REALLY MAD.

THAT'S HOW MY GRAMPA WAS.

IT'S OPEN.

HEY, IT IS!

THE CAR ON THE BOTTOM.

WHAT'M I LOOKING AT, SHOUTA?

WE'RE JUST GONNA TAKE A QUICK PEEK.

COME ON, IT'LL BE FINE.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, JIN.

IT'S DANGER-OUS!

I DON'T THINK SO.

HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN OPEN?

BUT THE STUFF OVER BY THE FENCE ISN'T ON MR. MABUCHI'S PROPERTY. WE DON'T KNOW WHOSE CAR IT IS.

HUH !?

... IIINTER-ESTING. LET'S HAVE US A LITTLE LOOK-SEE...

WHOAAA!

THE INSIDE IS PRETTY CLEAN.

WHOAAA.

SO YUH NAME'S MIRA?

YOU DON'T HAFTA CALL ME "MISS"!

MM-HM!

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS SHIORA.

YOU KNOW MR. MABUCHI SAID IT'S DANGEROUS ...

STOP, YOU GUYS!

OH?

WHAT'S WRONG?

!

PAKIN (CRACK)

NICE!

AN OLD COIN!

O-OH, THIS?

WHERE'D YA BUY IT?

YUH TAIL'S REAL CUTE!

BEKO CRACK

GUSHA (CRUNCH)

HUH?

GURA (TILT)

HWAAAAH!

WHAT'S ...

BYU (ZOOM)

MAKE IT IN TIME!

CRASHAAN (CRASH)

ガシャーン

Mo..il

.....

KORO (ROLL)
コロ

KORON
コロン

BON (BOMP)
ボン

BOM
ボム

AIIEEE!

A...

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?

FUAN
フワ

FUAN (WEEOO)
フワワ

KEEP OUT

BATAN- (SLAM)
バタン

GACHA (KACHAK)
ガチャ

KEEP OUT

NOPE.

NOTHING OVER BY THE FENCE IS MINE.

ARE THOSE OLD CARS YOURS?

I'M WITH THE CENTRAL 47 POLICE STATION'S TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

YEAH, THAT'S ME.

ARE YOU THE OWNER OF THAT GAS STATION?

...WHY ARE YOU ASKING? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

APPARENTLY, THE PROPERTY OWNER'S MISSING. THE WHOLE PLACE IS NEGLECTED.

PEOPLE STILL DO, FROM TIME TO TIME.

THEY'VE BEEN HERE SINCE BEFORE I MOVED IN. SOMEBODY DUMPED THEM THERE.

...

...BUT IT TURNS OUT ALL THE CHILDREN ARE SAFE.

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID IN THE CALL...

WHO'S UNDER THERE?

CALM DOWN, SIR.

WHO?

THEY FELL ON SOME-ONE!?

SOME CHILDREN CALLED US IN ABOUT A PILE OF OLD CARS FALLING AND CRUSHING SOMEONE.

I'M SURE THEY JUST EXAGGERATED THE SITUATION OUT OF PANIC.

...WELL, THEY'RE JUST KIDS.

TWO OF THEM TOOK A TUMBLE OUT OF SURPRISE. THEY MADE IT OUT WITH SOME LIGHT SCRAPES AND BRUISES.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST AS THE CHILDREN SAID ONCE WE GOT HERE.

.....

NOTHING ON THE BIOSCANS. NO BLOOD EITHER.

WE'RE CLEAR.

ALL RIGHT. COME BACK DOWN.

THERE'S NO REASON TO TREAT THIS LIKE AN EMERGENCY ANY LONGER.

...ALSO SAID HE DIDN'T SEE ANYONE ELSE.

THE FIRST PERSON AT THE SCENE, THE BUTLER WHO CAME BY TO PICK UP JIN SHIRAKAWA...

ALL THEY DID WAS GIVE INTO CURIOSITY TO EXPLORE THIS RUN-DOWN AREA.

BUT THANKS TO THIS ACCIDENT, THEY'LL END UP WITH A BIG DENT IN THEIR SCORES...

...THOSE POOR KIDS, THOUGH.

AND YOU TOO.

...EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE LUCKY ENOUGH NOT TO BE HARMED.

IT'S A SCAR THAT WILL STAY WITH THEM FOR LIFE...

IF THEY'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL GET OFF WITH SUSPENSIONS... AT WORST, EXPULSION... THEY'D HAVE TO TRANSFER TO AN INFERIOR SCHOOL.

...HE SAYS HE'LL PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOU FOR BREACHING DUTY OF CARE LAWS.

JIN'S FATHER— HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF SHIRAKAWA CONFECTIONERY...

YOU KNEW THAT THESE KIDS WERE PLAYING SOMEWHERE DANGEROUS, BUT YOU DIDN'T REPORT IT.

Mojil

...IF I WERE YOU, I'D START LOOKING FOR A GOOD LAWYER.
...HAVE A NICE DAY.

HRUMPH.

AH...

.....

YEAH. IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME...

Y'CAN'T, JIN.

POLICE

EEP

WAIT ... I...

IT SEEMS YOUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS ARE WAITING RIGHT OUTSIDE.

SUZUKI-YAMA!

SHALL WE BE ON OUR WAY, YOUNG MASTER...

...AND FRIENDS?

I AM SO THANKFUL YOU ARE ALL SAFE AND SOUND...TRULY THANKFUL...

TO THINK THAT SUCH A THING WOULD HAPPEN...

THE FAULT LIES ENTIRELY WITH ME.

I FAILED TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE DANGERS LURKING HERE.

NO.

IT WEREN'T YOU! DON'T CRY, MISTAH SUZUKIYAMA!

GACHA (KACHAK)

ガチャッ

バタン BATAN (SLAM)

...

WE SHOULD GO, CHILDREN.

FINALLY SOME PEACE AND QUIET.

.....

GACHA GACHAK

ガチャ

...Come in...

I'M COMIN' IN. YOU DECENT ?

...NOW, THEN.

GACHA GACHAK

ガチャ

...Aheh.
I had a little accident.
I'D SAY IT WAS MORE'N THAT.
...YEAH, YOU REALLY ARE ALL ROBOT.

...It landed on me in a bad way.

SEEING A SEVERED HEAD'LL DO THAT TO YOU.

THIS EXPLAINS WHY THE BRATS WERE SO PANICKED.

.....Did they keep quiet about my secret?

YEAH.

DOUBT THEY'LL SAY A SINGLE WORD.

...The kids' eyes... When they looked at me...

...they were absolutely terrified...

...It was a little..... sad.

AN' THEN NEW TESLA WOULD KNOW NOT ONLY THAT YOU EXIST BUT EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE.

YOU SHOULD BE. IF YOU'D BEEN FOUND, THEY WOULDA CARTED YOU OFF AS EVIDENCE.

I'm relieved.

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

...I'll have to remember to thank them.

.....If I'm able to meet the kids again one day...

WE DON'T WANT THE PEOPLE WHO DROVE THE YURIZAKI FAMILY TO THEIR DEATHS KNOWING THAT.

.....I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THERE'S SOME-THIN' FISHY ABOUT THIS.

I DOUBT IT WAS ANY OLD ACCIDENT.

.....I don't think so.

THEN YOU'VE GOT AN APPOINT-MENT WITH KOOROGI.

CAN YOU STICK YOUR HEAD BACK ON WITH THOSE NANO-MACHINE WHAT-SITS YOU'RE SO PROUD OF?

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE?

I WANT EVERY SINGLE DETAIL.

NOT TO MENTION THAT BUTLER OF JIN'S...

AND IF PEOPLE ARE THREATENING TO HIT ME WITH A LAWSUIT, THAT MAKES THIS MY BUSINESS.

SIGN: SHIRAKAWA

白川

THAT OLDER GIRL...

WILL SHE REALLY GET FIXED ...?

THEY THINK I'M A DEVOTED BUTLER.

THOSE TWO HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN ME.

?

YEAH, THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS. EVERYTHING IS GOING AS PLANNED.

...YEAH.

PARENTS AS PROUD AS THESE...

...WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR THEIR CHILD'S SCORE.

BRING THE GOODS HERE.

...AND ONE MORE THING.

.....

!!!

.....ANY-WAY, THE MONEY WILL BE READY TOMORROW.

KATA (CLATTER)

カタ...

ALSO...

THE KID ALMOST GOT KILLED. WOULD'VE RUINED THE ENTIRE PLAN.

DID YOU DEAL WITH THE BLOKE WHO SET IT UP?

WH... WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

キィ (KII) (CREAK)

...

I MUST BE HEARING THINGS.

FILE.13
RAIN MAN

GARA GARA GARA
ガラ ガラ ガラ
SAAA
ザー

PI!
(BEEP)
SAAAA
(FSSH)
ザー
GARA
ガラ
GARA
(CLACK)
ガラ
ザー

ZAAA
(ZSSH)
ザー

SAAAA
ザー ザー ザー

ZAZA

ZAAA

WHEW...

GOODNESS GRACIOUS.

GAPA (CLICK)

BASA (WHAP)

IT'S ALWAYS RAINING, WHEREVER I GO.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE SUN DOESN'T LIKE ME.

I AM DAIICHIROU HIRAME.

YOU ARE YOUNG JIN'S FATHER AND MOTHER? IT'S A PLEASURE.

SUZUKI-YAMA.

SHOW OUR GUEST INSIDE.

HE'S BEEN GROUNDED SINCE YESTERDAY.

MAY I ASK WHERE JIN IS?

THANK YOU.

PLEASE, THIS WAY.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

THAT GUY'S WHO SUZUKI-YAMA WAS TALKING TO ON THE PHONE ...

HE'S DEFINITELY A BAD GUY!

OH, MAN, WHAT DO I DO?

I CAN'T TALK TO DAD ABOUT IT 'COS SUZUKIYAMA WILL BE RIGHT THERE.....

I KNEW HE HAD A CYBORG HAND, BUT HE COULD BE HIDING SOME KINDA WEAPON...

.....AND I DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF EITHER.....

THE ACCIDENT WAS SET UP?

BUT HOW?

WHAT'S THE POINT...?

.....ARGH, I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!

HE SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A PLAN ...

MY SCORE...

...AND HOW IF I DIED, IT'D ALL BE RUINED...

...I TOTALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HERE...

GISHI (CREAK)

BLAAAH...

This device is currently locked. Parental permission is required to unlock it.

HYU (FSST)

...'COS DAD LOCKED MY BRACELET.

PI (BEEP)

.....I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO ANYBODY ABOUT IT...

.....YES, WE CAN.

EASILY.

.....I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.

EASILY ?

CAN WE REALLY SALVAGE JIN'S SCORE?

...I-IS IT TRUE...?

I DON'T BLAME YOU.

THE PUBLIC AT LARGE BELIEVES THAT SCORES ARE UNCHANGEABLE, PROTECTED BY A SECURE SYSTEM.

FOR WHO WOULD TRUST THE NUMBERS WITHOUT THE REASSURANCE THAT THEY CAN'T BE MANIPULATED?

...AND THAT IS HOW IT MUST BE.

AND SO...

...IT IS BECAUSE OF THAT TRUST...

...THAT OUR BUSINESS REMAINS PLAUSIBLE.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

THE MEANS ITSELF IS EASY, BUT IT IS NOT SO EASY TO SPEAK OF...

...OR TO CARRY OUT.

YOUR SON JIN HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE.

YOU ARE A WEALTHY FAMILY.

I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH YOU OTHERWISE.

.....

...THAT I REACHED OUT TO YOUR BUTLER SUZUKIYAMA HERE.

...IT IS BY NO MEANS A MERE COINCIDENCE...

I HAVE SOMETHING PREPARED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS.

JIN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE, OF COURSE.

GOTO (THUNK)

ゴト…

LET'S SAY THAT I'VE BEEN... CONCERNED WITH HIM.

.....HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING OUR SON?

...IS A PRIVILEGE AFFORDED TO ONLY A CHOSEN FEW.

GASHA (CLICK)

ガシャ

A "SCORE CHANGE"...

WON'T PEOPLE BE SUSPICIOUS WHEN THEY SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR?

ALL OF THEM!?

THE NEGATIVE POINTS ON HIS SCORE WILL ALL BE WIPED AWAY, JUST LIKE THAT.

...AND YOU DEPOSIT THE REQUIRED MONEY INTO THE ACCOUNT I SPECIFIED.

JIN PLACES HIS HAND WITH THE MONITOR BRACELET HERE...

.....
WHAT... DO YOU MEAN .....?

IT'S LEGAL ...?

I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO ELABORATE.

...THE TRANSACTION THAT IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IS ALL ***LEGAL.***

AND, ABOVE ALL...

EVEN HOMEROOM TEACHERS CAN'T FIND OUT THE DETAILS OF THEIR STUDENTS' SCORES.....

SCORES ARE KEPT PRIVATE AS A RULE.

THAT WON'T BE AN ISSUE.

.....I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH HOW DANGEROUS THAT WOULD BE.....

LEARNING THE TRUTH WOULD MEAN LEARNING THE SECRETS OF THE POWERFUL PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED THIS METHOD BEFORE YOU.

THERE IS VALUE IN NOT KNOWING.

SO LONG AS EVERY-THING IS ABOVE BOARD, YOUR PRIVACY STAYS PROTECTED.

THE METHOD IS LEGAL.

I SEE...

...I'M SURE YOU UNDER-STAND.

...TO SALVAGE JIN'S FUTURE.

YOU KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...

WE'LL DO IT.

...ALL RIGHT.

NI SNEER

BRING JIN.

YES, SIR?

SUZUKI-YAMA.

AS YOU WISH, SIR.

Hey...!

PON

...Wh—

PON (TOSS)

ONE FOREIGN OBJECT EXTRACTED.

ZUBO

HERE WE ARE.

HEAD.

POI (CLING)

ALL YOURS.

PASHI (CATCH)

THAT IS ONE DUMB QUESTION, KYOUMA.

ZUBO (SHOOP)

THINK YOU CAN FIX IT, KOOROGI?

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

PON

PON

Please don't play with my head!

LUCKY FOR YOU, THIS ONE'S GOT MONEY SAVED UP TOO.

YEAH?

SO LONG AS THE BRAIN IS UNHARMED, THIS BODY'S NO DIFFERENT THAN FOUR'S.

AGE-WISE, FOUR IS ACTUALLY NEWER!

Waaaah!

IF YA WANT, I COULD EVEN MAKE YOUR BUST SIZE ADJUSTABLE. HOW 'BOUT IT?

HEH!

NYEH! HEH!

...SINCE YOU'RE HERE ANYWAY, LET'S REPLACE YOUR SKIN WITH THE NEWEST STUFF.

As...as long as it's not unnatural ...

U-umm ...

EH!?

NYEH HEH.

HIDING THE COIL IN AN ANDROID'S CHEST SO THEY CAN WEAR SWIMSUITS IS THE LATEST TREND.

HEH!

YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH, KYOUMA?

HMM?

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

I'd have to buy new under-things...

I-it would be weird for my size to change, wouldn't it?

"SOMETHIN' NEEDS DOING"?

.....
You're going, then, Mr. Kyouma?

GAPA (CLICK)

PI (BEEP)

I'VE GOT SOMETHIN' NEEDS DOING.

A ROBOT WITH JUST A HEAD'S GOT NO PLACE BEIN' CUTE.

.....Do my share...

Do my share of protecting them too. Please.

HAAH?

I CAN'T LET THAT SLIDE.

HEY!

YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT KOOROGI'S SKILL.

I'LL SETTLE THE SCORE.

THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

JIN.

COME HERE.

—NOW, NOW, YOUNG MASTER.

WOULD YOU PLACE IT HERE FOR ME?

SU (SWISH) スッ

YOUR LEFT HAND.

HELLO THERE, JIN.

IT'S OKAY. I AM RIGHT HERE BESIDE YOU.

.....

!

JIIIN (WEEND) ウィィィーン

GYU (GRIP) ギュ

GOKU (SWALLOW)
ゴク…

NIKO (SMILE)
ニコ…

...SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE EXPELLED, DEAR.

DON'T TELL HIM THINGS HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW.

HEY!

IT'S GOING TO CHANGE YOUR SCORE...

KURU (TURN)
クル…

WH..... WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PUT MY HAND ON IT?

OF COURSE.

...AND SHOUTA— IT'LL CHANGE THEIR SCORES TOO?

HAM— HAMMOND, AND SHIORA...

YOU CAN DO THAT?

IT'LL CHANGE MY SCORE!?

HUH!?

BUT DAD...!

THAT'S ENOUGH, JIN. PUT YOUR HAND ON THE BOX.

IF IT'S NOT GONNA BE THEM TOO, THEN I—

IT WON'T? SO IT'S JUST ME?

IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU'RE A LOYAL FRIEND, JIN.

HA HA HA.

WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE. DON'T BE UNREA-SONABLE.

IT'S NOT FAIR IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO—

THEY'RE ALL IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ME .....

I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO IN THERE!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR THREE FRIENDS AS WELL?

...WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS?

HA-HA-HA.

I'M TOUCHED. REALLY.

BUT THIS IS MESSED UP...!!

BUT...

THREE HUNDRED MILLION FOR ALL THREE.

IN DEFERENCE TO JIN'S LOYALTY, THE OTHERS COULD BE AT HALF THE PRICE...

.....YES, THAT WILL DO.

I GET IT NOW. I GET WHAT'S GOING ON.

THREE HUNDRED MILLION !??

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS WEIRD THAT THE LOCK ON THE PARK GATE WAS LEFT BROKEN.

IT'S OPEN! WHOA!

THEY SET US UP SO THEY COULD SELL OUR SCORES .....

YOU WON'T REWARD HIS SHOW OF KINDNESS ?

NO! IT'S TOO MUCH!

YOU MUST BE JOKING! WHY SHOULD WE PAY FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S KIDS!?

IF WE LEAVE THE AREA WE HAVE PERMISSIONS FOR, OUR SCORES WILL BE DOCKED!

IF THE WARNING ALARMS ON OUR BRACELETS GO OFF, WE CAN JUST TURN BACK. IT'LL BE FINE!

DID SUZUKIYAMA UNLOCK IT EVERY TIME WE WERE THERE?

WAS IT REALLY BROKEN, OR DID SOME-ONE...?

NOOO, WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE!

LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

NO WAY, FOR REAL?

HOW THAT WAS THE ONLY PLACE WE WERE ACCIDENTALLY ALLOWED TOO... ALL OF IT...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE AREA JUST AHEAD IS ACCIDENTALLY CLASSIFIED AS A ROAD TO SCHOOL. I CHECKED.

...THEY AIN'T BLARIN'.

SO... WE'RE IN THE CLEAR?

...SET BY SUZUKI-YAMA!!!

ALL OF IT WAS A TRAP...

...IT'S NO GOOD!

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER, YOUNG MASTER?

...?

I...I!

I ALREADY GOT SCRAPPY AND THAT GIRL IN TROUBLE.

IF I SAY EVERYTHING NOW, THEY COULD HURT DAD AND MOM TOO...

WE'RE UP AGAINST TWO BAD GUYS.

...Jin.

Do whatever they say for now.

HA (GASP)
はっ

HUH?

YOUNG MASTER?

DID I IMAGINE IT...?

...SCRAPPY'S VOICE?

...WAS THAT...

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

NUH-UH.

NOTHIN'.

...IT WAS PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.

I HAVE TO TRUST THE VOICE.

.....EVEN IF I JUST IMAGINED WHAT HE SAID, IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW...

I'LL DO IT ALONE.

I'LL STOP BEING UNREASON-ABLE...

SORRY, DAD. SORRY, MOM.

...I WILL DRIVE YOU BACK.

DON'T FRET. YOUR SECRET WON'T GET OUT...

...JUST AS IT HASN'T FOR ANY OF MY CLIENTS.

...NOW, THEN.

IT WAS A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT.

I JUST PUT MY HAND HERE?

I GOTTA BELIEVE.

NOW, JIN, YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

MAY WE NEVER MEET AGAIN.

...GOOD-BYE.

THE RAIN SHOULD LET UP SOON.

SAAAA. (FSSH)

FILE.14
CHASE

ZAAAA (ZSSH)

I DID IT! EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

AH HA HA HA!

AT LAST, I'M RICH!!

TWO HUNDRED MILLION ...!

...AND GOT ME THAT DEVICE.

YOU BELIEVED WHAT I TOLD YOU, GOT ME THE RIGHT PEOPLE...

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, MR. HIRAME.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, SUZUKIYAMA.

WE MADE A SUBSTAN-TIAL PROFIT, JUST AS YOU ADVERTISED.

I AM AN INVESTOR.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I WOULD UNDERWRITE PROMISING BUSINESS VENTURES.

...EVEN IF THE IDEA SOUNDS ABSOLUTELY ABSURD.

BUT ALL OF THOSE BEFORE YOU TRIED TO CHANGE SCORES ILLEGALLY, AND THAT IS WHERE THEY FAILED.

YOU AREN'T THE FIRST TO ATTEMPT TO MONETIZE SCORES.

.....YET THEY ALL HAD THE NERVE TO TRY TO GET ME TO TELL THEM HOW IT WOULD WORK..... HA!

NO ONE ELSE BELIEVED ME WHEN I SAID IT COULD BE DONE.

MAKING A KILLING OFF SCORES .....

I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU FOUND IT.

EVEN I WAS UNAWARE THAT THIS *LOOPHOLE* EXISTED.

THIS DEVICE MERELY AUTOMATES THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES.

THE UNIQUE PART OF YOUR PLAN IS THAT IT'S ALL "ABOVE BOARD."

KASHA (CLANK)
カシャ

THESE TWO PROSTHETIC HANDS TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW.

SHU (PULL)

I LEARNED THE LOOPHOLES IN THE SCORE SYSTEM...

...BECAUSE OF THIS.

REVENGE ON THE BASTARDS WHO CREATED THE SYSTEM ...

AFTER I LOST MY HANDS, GETTING REVENGE ON THE SCORE SYSTEM WAS ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT.

WHO STARTED THIS SENSELESS DISCRIMI-NATION.

KATA (TAK)
カタ

KATA
カタ

...I STILL FEEL THE PHANTOM PAIN IN MY MISSING FINGERTIPS.

IT EVEN WAKES ME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.....

.....OH?

I FOUND IT

YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT

.....AND THEN YOU FOUND IT.

THE "MILITARY VOLUNTEER EXCEPTION" !!!

AN EXCEPTION THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE IN THE PRESENT DAY...

WHY DIDN'T ANYONE NOTICE THAT THIS EXCEPTION IS STILL IN EFFECT? BECAUSE IT'S WRITTEN IN ALMOST INCOMPREHENSIBLE LEGALESE FORMULATED TO CONFUSE THE READER INTO THINKING THAT THE RULE IS ONLY IN PLACE DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY. AND...

PUT SIMPLY, VOLUNTARILY SIGNING UP FOR THE MILITARY INVALIDATES THE NEGATIVE POINTS ON ONE'S SCORE.

...BECAUSE THEY NEVER QUESTIONED HOW THERE'S NO MENTION OF AN AGE REQUIREMENT.

HEH HEH HEH!

THE ONES WHO CAME UP WITH THE SCORE SYSTEM PUT THIS LOOP-HOLE IN TO COVER THEIR OWN KIDS' ASSES.

SO ALL IT'LL DO IS RESTORE THE POINTS...

NOW THAT WE'RE IN AN AGE OF AUTOMATED WARFARE, THIS NATION'S DEFENSE FORCE DOESN'T EVEN RECRUIT FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

EVEN A GRADE SCHOOLER CAN "VOLUNTEER." OF COURSE, NOTHING WILL COME OF IT.

BUREAUCRATS HAVE ALWAYS HAD A KNACK FOR LEAVING LOOPHOLES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

IT ALL FALLS INTO PLACE.

SCORES INCLUDED.

CENTRAL 47 IS A SPECIAL, SELF-GOVERNED DISTRICT UNDER NEW TESLA, BUT EDUCATION AND MILITARY-RELATED AFFAIRS STILL COMPLY WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS.

AAAAH-HA-HA!

THERE ARE THRONGS OF PARENTS WHO WORRY ABOUT SCORES.

RIGHT.

WE SHOULD EARN AS MUCH AS WE CAN UNTIL THIS BECOMES A PUBLIC SCANDAL.

...BUT THEY WON'T BE SO QUICK TO GIVE UP A LOOPHOLE THAT BENEFITS THEMSELVES.

THEY'LL CATCH ON TO OUR CON EVEN-TUALLY...

WE'LL LURE THE BRATS INTO A TRAP AND SAVE THEIR SCORES BY OUR OWN HANDS.

WE SANK A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO THIS ONE, BUT WE'LL BE MORE EFFICIENT FROM NOW ON.

WE'LL SQUEEZE OUT EVERY LAST YEN WE CAN.

THEY'LL PAY FOR THIS PAIN.

That's how it works, then?

!!?

...Well, I'll be.

YOU HAVE AN ADMIRABLE TENACITY.

SUZUKI-YAMA.

CHECK UNDER YOUR COLLAR.

WHAT ...!?

...but you went over the line.

You've got a good eye...

WHO'S THERE!?

WHERE IS THAT VOICE COMING FROM?

A BATTERY-POWERED BUG, IN THIS DAY AND AGE...?

WHEN DID THAT GET THERE .....?

IPERA (FLIP)

WH...

A COM-BUSTION ENGINE!?

.....THE SOUND OF A COM-BUSTION ENGINE?

Ya made just one mistake.

BO (BRRM)

BO

BO

BO

BO

BO

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ME.

HE'S THE GUY FROM THAT OLD GAS STATION .....

...H—

WH-WHAT ARE YOU ...!?

(CHA (CHAK)

SUZUKI-YAMA.

MOVE.

(PASHU (PSSH)

(BACHI (CRACKLE)

(PI (BEEP)

(BAM)

EEK!

STEP ON IT.

THAT'S WHY I'VE OVERRIDDEN ALL OF THE SAFETY FEATURES.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LOSE OUR *TAIL* IF WE HAVE TO ABIDE BY TRAFFIC LAWS.

IS THAT AN ILLEGAL COIL ...!?

...NO WAY.

Aborting auto-drive.

Please take hold of the steering wheel and drive carefully.

G...

GOT IT!

ZAAAA (ZSSH)

GYARURURU (SCREECH)

ITS PERFORMANCE IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL.

THIS CAR HAS ALL-WHEEL DRIVE.

BOAAA (VROOO)

GO (CLUNK)

HEH... IDIOTS.

AAA (OO

IAAAA (ZSSH)

JUST BEFORE THE CARS FELL, I HEARD SOMETHING RELEASING.

...YES.

A SOUND?

PEKA FLIP

.....

I'LL EXTRACT THE SOUNDS I HEARD DURING THE ACCIDENT AND SEND THEM TO YOU.

KYU (VRR)

.....YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE NOW, YES?

A SPLASH, HUH...?

THEN, AS THEY COLLAPSED, I HEARD THE SOUND OF WATER SPLASHING IN THE BACK-GROUND...

IT CAME FROM THE RIVER BEHIND HERE. I CAN PINPOINT A MORE EXACT LOCATION TOO.

...SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING HEAVY HITTING WATER.

ZABON (SPLASH)

ZAAA (VWRR)

↑GIGIGH (STRAIND

BAKIK (CRACK)

KIII (CREAK)

BAKI

THE RIVER...?

.....THEN IT WAS SET UP LIKE THIS...

GUI (TUG)

THE FORCE FROM THE WIRE COILING BACK UP MUST HAVE SENT IT FLYING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

A HEAVY-DUTY, SPRING-LOADED PULLEY?

ZABA (SPLOOSH)

THE HOOK AT THE END OF THE WIRE WAS PROBABLY SECURED TO A STURDY TREE BRANCH...

...WHILE I WAS OUT ONE DAY.

THEN THEY LEFT IT ALONE FOR MONTHS SO NO ONE WOULD FIND IT SUSPICIOUS.

THEY ATTACHED THE PULLEY TO A PILE OF CARS THAT WAS ALREADY CLOSE TO COLLAPSING AND CAMOUFLAGED THE WIRE...

WHEN IT DETACHED, THE PULLEY WOUND BACK UP, AND THE MOMENTUM SENT IT FLYING INTO THE RIVER...

CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED, ODDS ARE IT WAS SET UP SO THAT TOUCHING THE CAR SEAT WOULD RELEASE THE PULLEY.

IF ALBERT KNEW ABOUT THIS, HE'D NEVER LET ME HEAR THE END OF IT...

...I'M KICKING MYSELF FOR OVERLOOKING SUCH A PRIMITIVE TRAP.

EVEN IF I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE'S GARBAGE...

...NOW THIS IS SHAMEFUL.

IF THIS IS WHERE IT RELEASED FROM, THE CONNECTING HALF SHOULD HAVE STILL BEEN ATTACHED TO THE CAR.

...BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE.

...THE ONE QUESTION LEFT IS HOW IT WAS HOOKED TO THE CAR...

IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO COULD'VE DONE IT...

SOMEONE HAD TO RETRIEVE IT BEFORE THE COPS SHOWED UP AND SNEAK IT AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT.

That's you...

...Suzuki-yama.

THE FIRST MAN TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE.

HE'S JUST SOME OLD FOSSIL .....

WHY'D HE HAVE TO STICK HIS NOSE INTO OUR BUSI-NESS!?

KASHA (SNAP)

GA (GRAB)

DAMN YOU!

BYU (FLING)

184km

DAMN IT!

THERE'S TOO MUCH TRAFFIC FOR THE CAR TO REACH ITS TOP SPEED.

THIS WILL COME DOWN TO SKILL.

...But there's one thing about them that's barely changed at all.

Particu-larly after coils came into use.

Auto-mobiles have advanced by leaps and bounds in the last century.

...One word of advice.

TIRE PERFORMANCE.

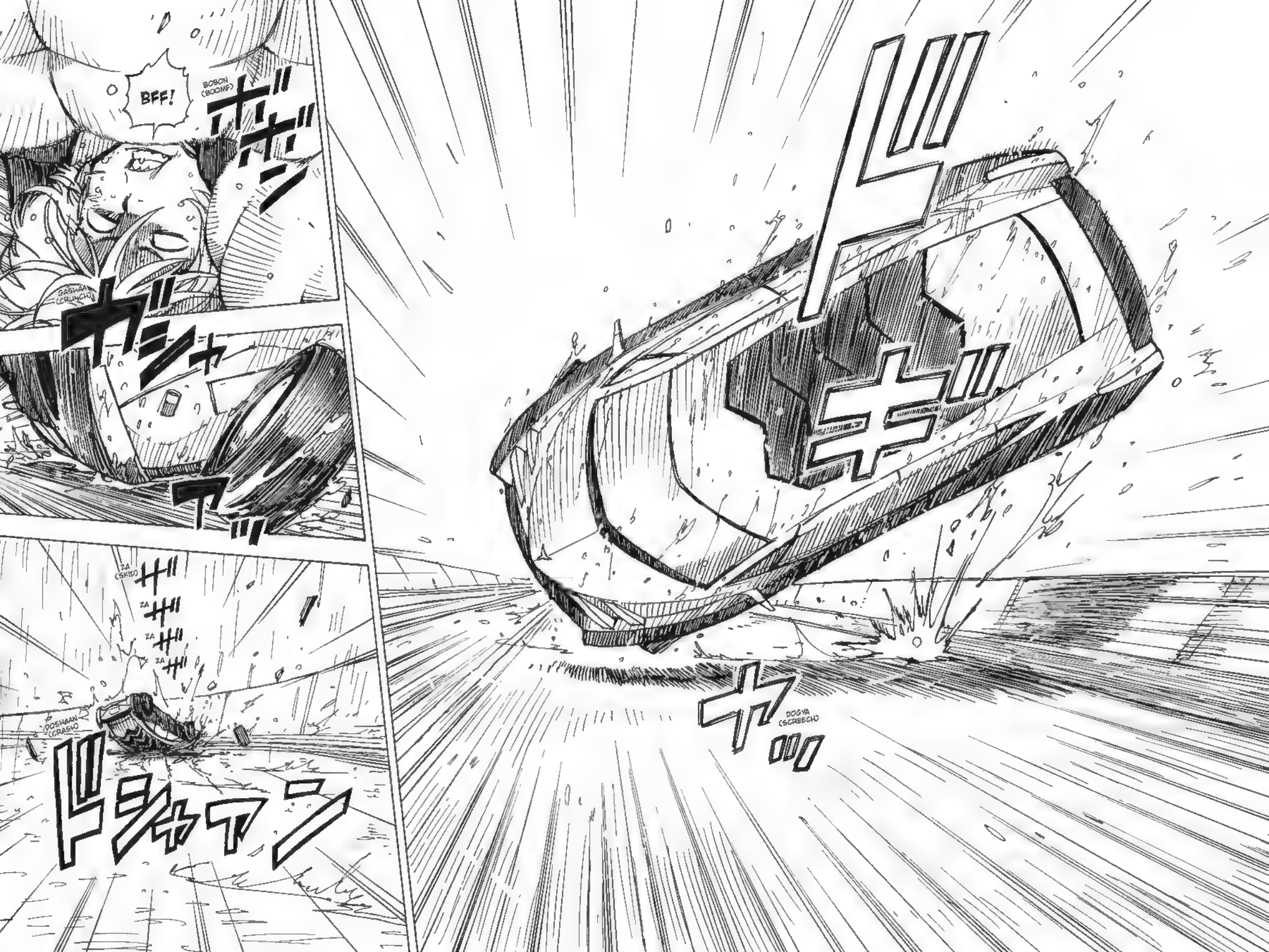
ZURU (SLIP)
ズル
"

!!?

"HYDRO-PLANING."

DOUBT YOU'D KNOW ABOUT IT, GROWING UP IN THE AUTO-DRIVING GENERATION.

TURNS OUT IT'S JUST AS DANGEROUS TO ACCELERATE IN THE RAIN NOW AS IT WAS BACK IN THE DAY.


BFF!
BOBON (BOOMF)
GASHAA (CRUNCH)
ZA (SKID)
ZA
ZA
ZA
DOSHAAN (CRASH)
DOGYA (SCREECH)

SAAAA (FSSH)

KARA (ROLL)

KARA

KI (SQUEAK)

SAAAA

BATAN (SLAM)

ZA

ZA (SPLASH)

GACHA! (KACHAK)

GASHA (CLICK)

ZA

ZA

GH...

UUUGH...

HRM?

MOKO (WHuMP)

MOKO

モフ

モフ

BASHA (SPLASH)

ハシャッ

GET OUT.

.....

ZURu (YANK)

ズル

PACHI (FZZT)

THE OTHER ONE GOT AWAY, EH?

...

DAMN IT...

DAMN IT...!!

PAKI (CLINK)

NOW WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

DON'T MIND IF I DO.

WHY?
WHY?
WHY?

YORO (STAGGER)

SO WHY...?

THE PLAN WAS PERFECT...

IT WAS ALL GOING SO WELL...

BA (LUNGE)

DAMN YOUUUU!

!!?

GA (CATCH)

BYU (WHOOSH)

ZUBO (POP)
ズボ"

KACHI (CHAK)
カチッ

WELL, WOULD YA LOOK AT THAT?

AHHH ...!!

MY HAND...

MY LEFT HAND.....!

THIS IS HOW YOU ATTACHED THE PULLEY TO THE CAR.

AH...

ZU"!
SU (LIFT)

MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT.

HEH.

GACHI (CLICK)

YOU USED AN ***EXTRA*** PROSTHETIC HAND IN PLACE OF AN ORDINARY HOOK.

BEFORE YOU RAN TO THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT, YOU REMOVED ONE OF YOUR HANDS.

THEN, YOU RETRIEVED THE EXTRA HAND AND PUT IT ON WHILE PRETENDING TO CHECK OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

THAT'S HOW YOU WALKED AWAY WITH THE EVIDENCE WITHOUT ANYONE SUSPECTING A THING.

...HOW DID YOU KNOW I HAVE PROSTHETIC HANDS WHEN WE'D NEVER EVEN MET...?

THE LITTLE TELLS IN YOUR BODY LANGUAGE GAVE YOU AWAY.

THAT, AND HOW YOUR MOVEMENTS WERE STIFF ON ONLY ONE SIDE.

THAT WAS THE SMOKING GUN.

KH...

GUH...

PETA (SPLAT)

SAAAA (FSSH)

FILE.15
AFTER THE RAIN

.....IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.....

THERE, YOUR SCORE WAS EVERY-THING.

I WAS ATTENDING ONE OF THE TOP TEN PREP SCHOOLS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

SCRAWNY, BAD AT TALKING, BAD AT SPORTS...

BUT EVEN UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE KIDS WHO GET BULLIED.

MISHITA WAS THE EPITOME OF THEIR TYPE.

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET BY.

... CONSIDER-ING THAT EVERY LITTLE PART OF YOUR LIFE WOULD AUTOMATI-CALLY AFFECT YOUR SCORE.

EVERY-ONE PLAYED THE GOODY TWO-SHOES.

YOU COULD SAY WE WERE ALL AFRAID TO DO OTHER-WISE...

IT WAS EASY TO BULLY HIM UNDER THE RADAR.

HE JUST ALWAYS WORE THAT CROOKED SMILE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID TO HIM, HE WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING.

TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HE COULDN'T TAKE A HINT.

WE STARTED USING HIM AS AN OUTLET FOR THE IRRITATION WE COULDN'T SHOW ON THE SURFACE BECAUSE WE WERE CAGED IN BY OUR SCORES.

NIKO (GRIN)

MAKE SURE YOU LOOK WHERE YOU'RE WALKING...

...MISHITA.

GYA HA HA HA HA!

.....

AND GRADU-ALLY, IT ESCA-LATED.

DON (BUMP)

WHOOPS!

WHAT ARE YOU SMIRKING AT, HUH!?

WHAT'S THAT FOR!?

GA (KICK)

YOU THINK IT'S THAT FUNNY?

WHOA! STOP, AKABANE!

YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!

BAGO (CRACK)

...IS THAT FUNNY? DO YOU!?

DOKO (WHAM)

...MY FACE...

GOSU (WHAM)

YOU THINK...

AH!

HUH?

STOP!

WHAT?

...BUT IT WAS A FACT THAT I'D BULLIED HIM TOO.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

I DIDN'T BEAT MISHITA...

HEEEK!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

AND EXCUSES DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO THE SCORE SYSTEM ...

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, WE'D DONE SOMETHING WE COULDN'T TAKE BACK.

I WAS FALLING HEAD-FIRST.

あ

AAAH!

あ

あ

あ

WE HAD TO MOVE AGAINST OUR WILL.

TRANS-FERRED TO A THIRD-RATE SCHOOL.

I WAS EX-PELLED FOR HAVING AN INSUF-FICIENT SCORE.

AND WHAT WAITED FOR ME WHEN I HIT THE GROUND WAS...

DOKUN (THROB)

HOT.

I'M SO SORRY, DARLING.

I'M SORRY.

MOMMY MADE A LITTLE OOPSIE.

WHY?

IT'S BURN-ING.

DOKUN

ZAN (WHAM)

?

THE ONE WITH THE I.D. CHIP IS THE LEFT, NOT THE RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

THE HAND WE NEED TO CHOP OFF...

MY MOTHER WENT INSANE.

UWAAAAH!

MOMMY WILL GET IT RIGHT, THIS TIME!

.....AND I LOST BOTH OF MY HANDS.....

SHE'D RAISED ME BY HERSELF... MY EDUCATION HAD BEEN HER REASON FOR LIVING.

SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT WITH HER ANYMORE.

.....THAT'S THE REASON YOU DID ALL THIS?

YEAH. IT IS.

SHOULD'VE AT LEAST LEFT ME WITH THE RIGHT ONE.....

IMMEDIATELY AFTER, SHE LIT HERSELF ON FIRE AND BURNED TO DEATH HOLDING BOTH MY HANDS.

HEH HEH.

...WHAT HAPPENED TO AKABANE, THE KID WHO KILLED MISHITA AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPELLED ALONG WITH ME!

I FOUND OUT...

...BUT IT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.

...THAT THERE HAD TO BE A LOOPHOLE IN THE SCORE SYSTEM!

THAT WAS WHEN I REAL-IZED...

THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS UNFAIR!

I HAD TO GET MY RE-VENGE !!

...HE GRADUATED FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL WITH A SHIT-EATING GRIN ON HIS FACE...

...AND WAS WORKING AS AN ASSISTANT FOR HIS UNCLE, A LOCAL POLITICIAN!

...GOT INTO LAW SCHOOL, NO QUESTIONS ASKED...

BFF!

GA CWHACK!

SEE? I DIDN'T —

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF IT WERE YOU IN MY PLACE?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

...IN FACT, SOMEBODY DID WIND UP HALF-DEAD...

!!

ONE WRONG MOVE, AND SOMEBODY COULD'VE WOUND UP DEAD.

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR REASONS WERE. YOUR CRIME PUT THOSE KIDS IN HARM'S WAY.

IF YOU FALL AS A PERSON, YOU'RE DONE.

FERGET YOUR SCORE FALLIN'...

NEXT TIME, FIND A BETTER WAY TO PULL YOURSELF UP.

POLICE

...TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

THAT'S WHERE YOU SHOULD BE LOOKIN'...

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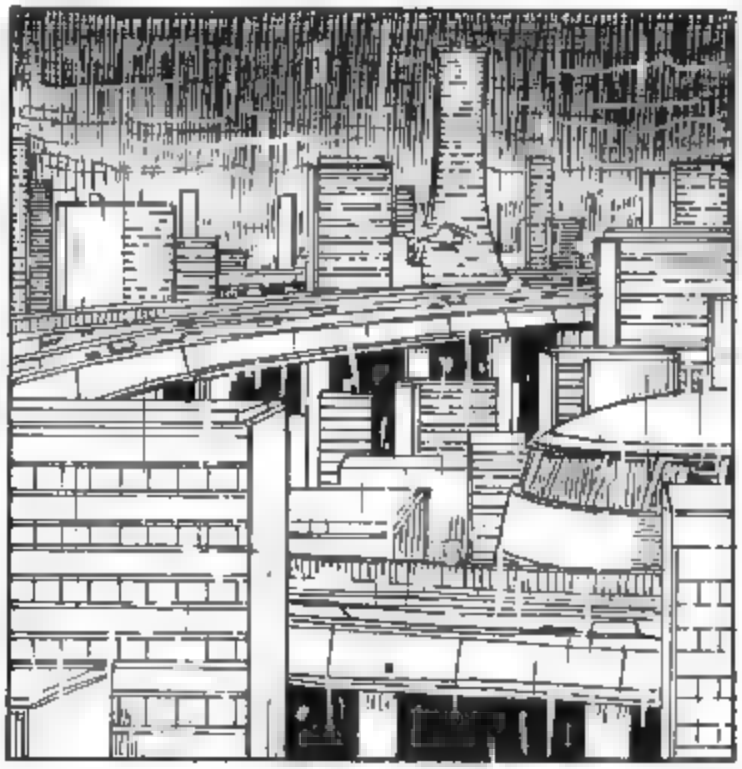

WHOA!

THERE ARE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW—

HE'LL KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

ZUKA

ズカ

I NEED TO HAVE WORDS WITH YOUR BOSS.

ZUKA (TROMP)

ズカ

.....YOU THERE, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

YOU CAN'T JUST BARGE IN HERE!

OOF!

ZuDAN (SLAM)

ズダーン

DON'T MOVE!

CHA (CHAK)

SECURITY!

STOP HIM!

YOU'LL BRING BACK OLD MEMORIES.

!!!

DON'T POINT THAT THING AT ME.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THIS MAN, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY.

LET HIM THROUGH.

DOYO (CROWD)

WHO THE...

!!?

YOU'RE...

...THE BEAST OF GRENDEL.

NO. MAKE THAT...

I BELIEVE THIS IS THE FIRST WE'VE MET, MR. MABUCHI.

YOU MAY STAND BACK.

I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FALLOUT.

YES, MA'AM!

Y-

CH-CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER SKYHART ...!

CLAIRE SKYHART ...!

OF COURSE, THAT INCLUDES MANAGING WILD BEASTS.

EVERYTHING HAPPENING IN CENTRAL HAPPENS UNDER MY WATCH.

THIS OFFICE MIGHT BE IN CENTRAL, BUT IT'S CONTROLLED BY THE FEDS. WHY ARE YOU HERE?

AND WHY IS A BIGWIG LIKE YOU GETTING INVOLVED?

I CAME STRAIGHT HERE. HOW DID YOU FIND OUT SO FAST?

?

...THEY CAME TO SEE ME AS WELL.

I HEARD THE REPORTS CONCERNING THE ACCIDENT ON THE EXPRESSWAY AND THE MAN WHO WAS ARRESTED.

!?

YOU'RE HERE TO POINT FINGERS REGARDING THE INJUSTICE OF THE SCORE SYSTEM, YES?

SCRA...

MISTAH KYOUMA!

HUH?

SHIORA ...!!?

WHY ARE Y'ALL TOGETHUH?

WE HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS. YOU RUN OFF TO YOUR PAPA AND MAMA, NOW.

THAT'S CORRECT, DARLING.

YOU KNOW MAH GRANMA?

YOU'RE RELATED !?

GRAND-DAUGH-TER!?

SHIORA SKY-HART.

MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.

TO (TUP)

OH YEAH!

OKAY!

HISO (WHISPER)

Tell her not ta worry none, an' ta get bettuh soon!

HISO

Ah didn't tell Granma that secret.

HISO

I DON'T ASSIGN A GUARD TO SHIORA OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY SON AND HIS WIFE'S WISHES. SHE'S BEEN LIVING JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD WOULD.

AND NOW SHE'S INVOLVED IN THIS NONSENSE AS A RESULT.

I COULD DO WITH-OUT IT.

POPULAR WITH THE CHILDREN, ARE YOU? HOW SUR-PRISING.

G'BYE NOW!

WHY DOES SHE TALK IN KANSAI DIALECT, ANYWAY?

IT WAS EMPLOYEES OF THIS OFFICE WHO CAME.

SCAMMERS SHOWED UP TO TRY TO EXTORT YOU, THE SAME WAY THEY SHOWED UP AT JIN'S PLACE?

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS DISAP-POINTING.

.....IT WAS ABSOLUTELY APPALLING.

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THEY WERE ALL TOO HAPPY TO EXPLAIN PRECISELY HOW WE COULD PREVENT SHIORA'S SCORE FROM FALLING.

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I SUP-POSE IT'S NECESSARY, POLITICALLY.

YET IT MEANS THAT, AS THINGS STAND, WE ALSO INHERIT SOME OF THEIR... ***UNNECESSARY TRADITIONS***, SOMETIMES UNBEKNOWNST TO US.

THERE ARE SIXTY CENTRALS AROUND THE WORLD—ONE AROUND EACH TOWER— ALL OF THEM INDEPENDENTLY GOVERNED BY NEW TESLA...

HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALSO MANY CASES WHERE WE COMPLY WITH THE LAWS OF EACH NATION.

SO WHEN IT HAPPENS TO SOMEONE OF YOUR STANDING, THE ADMIN-ISTRATORS TAKE THE MATTER TO YOU THEM-SELVES?

...I'M MORE SURPRISED THAT YOU WERE UNAWARE OF THE LOOPHOLE YOURSELF.

...AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF CENTRAL 47, I'LL FORMALLY OBJECT TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

NATU-RALLY...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW THAT YOU KNOW?

.....SO.

I NEEDN'T TELL YOU THAT I'LL HAVE THOSE SCORES REVISED.

I INTEND, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO HAVE THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S HEAD ON A PLATTER.

THIS WAS NEVER ANY BUSINESS OF YOURS.

QUITE.

THAT'LL PUT THE FEAR OF GOD IN 'EM MUCH MORE THAN THREATS FROM A NOBODY LIKE ME.

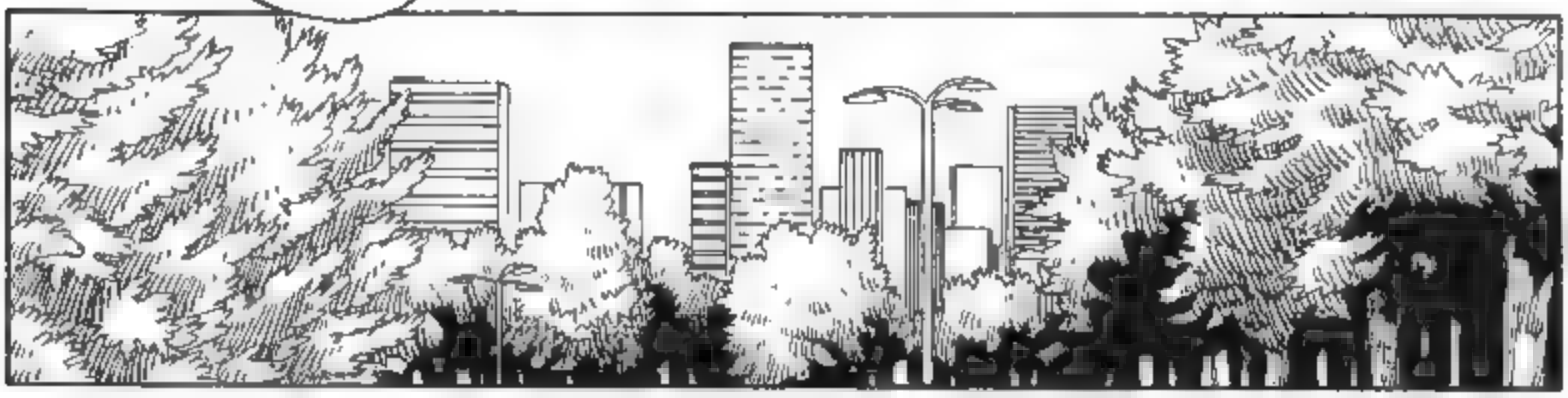
HEH ...

KYOUMA MABUCHI...

I DON'T MIND IF YOU FLY INTO A RAGE...

...BUT THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE.

CHOOSE WISELY, OR I MAY HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN.



YOUR GRANDMA IS SOMEONE IMPORTANT IN THE TOWER, RIGHT?

SHE SURE IS!

I GUESS SCRAPPY CAME TO MY HOUSE TOO, BUT I'M NOT REAL CLEAR ON IT.

HUH... SO YOU GOT TO SEE SCRAPPY, SHIORA...?

ONLY FO' A SECOND.

HE WAS TALKIN' TO MAH GRANMA 'BOUT GROWN-UP STUFF.

I HOPE YOU GET TO ASK HIM IN PERSON.

IS HE, THOUGH?

MISTAH MABUCHI SEEMS AMAZIN'.

AH RECKON HE WAS THERE!

REAL CLEAR? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE CAME 'COS I ONLY HEARD HIS VOICE, AND OUR SECURITY DIDN'T RESPOND.

MAN, I WISH I COULD GO TO SCRAPPY'S PLACE.

THAT'S TOO BAD.

HE'S IN A REAL BAD MOOD.

...BUT THE MONEY'S GONE FOR GOOD.

THE CASE GOT WRAPPED UP, AND MY SCORE'S OKAY...

IF I SNEAK AWAY AGAIN, MY DAD WILL KILL ME.

.....

FUU (SIGH)

I'LL MISS THEM.

PLEASE DON'T LOOK SO DOWN.

ZA (CRUNCH)

AND I WANNA MAKE SURE MIRA REALLY DID GET FIXED.

THE PARK'S BORING.

.....AND I GUESS I SHOULD THANK HIM OR WHAT-EVER...

GATA (JUMP)
MIRA!
AND I CAN COME SEE YOU IN SECRET LIKE THIS TOO.
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
MM-HM!
AND MY CHEST AREA IS EVEN MORE COMPLETE THAN IT WAS BEFORE.
NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT A THING EVEN IF THEY TOUCHED IT!
AH... H-HEY!
WOW! IT FEELS SO REALISTIC!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
ME TOO! LET ME FEEL IT TOO!
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME...
...I'M ALL FIXED NOW. SEE?

...HMPH.

I'LL GO HOME AND POLISH MY CARS OR SOMETHIN'.

NO BRATS TO GET IN THE WAY.

NICE WEATHER TODAY.
YASOGAMI LAKE, SHINSHUU
10:28 P.M.

YASOGAMI ISLAND

SAKAKI ESTATE

KARA (RATTLE)

KARA

KARA

KII (CREAK)

キイイ

?

KON (KNOCK)

KON

コン

コン

SIR?

I BROUGHT YOUR LATE-NIGHT SNACK.

...SIR?

PIKU (TWITCH)

PIKU

PIKU

G...

GACK ...

GOBO (GLWB)

ブッ

ブッ

ブッ

ブッ

……

……

AAA…

AAAIIEEE!

Dimension W
47
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MINI CORNER

NO. 2: "TOWERS & CENTRAL"

INTRODUCTION TO DIMENSION W

TOWER OF WAR

Hello, everyone.

I am Rose, the Tower 47 door guard.

My A.I. is version 3.85.

Today, I'll be explaining the "*Towers*" and "*Central.*"

The "*Towers*" ...

...are the world's largest structures, exceeding even the Great Wall of China.

There are sixty Towers spread across the world.

Central is a city for the people who work at New Tesla Energy. They are also fortifications to protect the Towers from political powers.

And built around each Tower are independently-administrated districts known as "*Central.*"

They are an average of thirteen hundred meters tall. Their purpose is to stabilize the energy of Dimension W and monitor coil usage.

The system covers the entire world in dimensions X, Y, and Z.

Each and every Tower is invisibly connected within Dimension W.

...obtained a large amount of land and many freedoms in exchange for complying with the national laws regarding "education" and "military"—excuse me, the "self-defense force."

"*Central 47*" here in Japan...

Each Central is designed and managed to be compatible with the local state of affairs and culture.

It has the largest, most flourishing population of all independently-administrated districts in the world, is comparatively safe, and is one of the few Centrals with an urban design.

...and a Central built in an area of conflict will be designed to discourage outsiders from approaching.

For example, a Central built on top of the ocean will be mostly uninhabited...

TO BE CONTINUED

Dimension W

by YUJI IWAHARA

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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